4 killed, 11 injured in Laguna provincial jail riot

Story on PAGE A6

Ad congress ends with political lampoon

MAS MABILI KAMI SA MGA POLITIKO!
BALLOT

By Frank Cimatu
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Politicians hire advertising agencies and publicity firms to sweeten their image all the time. But what do these image-makers really

AD CONGRESS/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Monday, November 24, 2003 ★★ 84 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 349 P15

POE: The final word is I am just meeting with some of my leaders to thank them for their support.

MIKE ALQUINTO/EPA

Take 2 for Da King: Nothing final yet

RELATIVES of Betti Chua Sy and other mourners express sympathy to the family of the slain kidnap victim by lighting candles near her residence on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Sy was buried yesterday in Valenzuela.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Cory brod said to be backing FPJ

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE he has yet to make up his mind on whether to run for president, Fernando Poe Jr. has already won the support of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, younger brother of former President Corazon Aquino.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa), yesterday said Cojuangco was keen on supporting Poe, nicknamed "Da King."

An indication of this was Poe's invitation to Cojuangco's wife, Margarita "Ting Ting" Cojuangco, to join the actor's senatorial ticket, according to Saycon.

An executive in the film industry, whose son has Poe and Cojuangco for godfathers, told Ting Ting about the invitation about a week ago but she had "no answer yet," the Copa official said.

Saycon said Cojuangco, one of the founding members of Copa, reiterated his plan to support Poe during the birthday party of columnist Teodoro Benigno at the latter's home in Merville Subdivision in Parañaque City the other night.

"When we asked him why he was supporting FPJ," Saycon said Cojuangco "threw back the question to us and asked, 'And why not?'" Saycon said this was Cojuangco's "standard" response whenever he was asked the Poe question.

Poe said yesterday he had yet to decide whether to challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo in the presidential election in May.

As he left FPJ Studios in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, Poe told reporters he was still discussing his candidacy with political allies.

"The final word is I am just meeting with some of my leaders to thank them for their support," said Poe, clad in blue jeans and long-sleeved shirt. "Actually, I am still communicating with a lot of people."

He made the clarification after another newspaper reported that he was running for president. "I cannot turn my back on the people," the newspaper quoted the 63-year-old idol of millions of Filipino moviegoers as saying. Then he reportedly told the newspaper: "I

TAKE 2/ A20

Ping: I can't believe she disowned statements

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson cannot believe actress Kris Aquino has disowned statements that she was supporting him or actor Fernando Poe Jr. for president in 2004.

"Yes, we did have a meeting last Thursday and ... she told me that she had only two choices, that is whoever would be the opposition standard-bearer—whether it is I or FPJ," Lacson told reporters here yesterday.

He said Aquino had "clearly indicated" that she was going for the opposition.

The daughter of former President Corazon Aquino has said that she made no such commitment during dinner with Lacson. The two were photographed coming out of the Japanese restaurant in the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati.

On Saturday, the INQUIRER reported on the meeting, quoting lawyer Sigfrid Fortun who had arranged it and who was at the dinner. *(The Inquirer stands by its story—Ed.)*

Fortun is Lacson's lawyer for the Kuratong Baleleng case and was Aquino's counsel in a recent near-legal tussle with her former lover, Mayor Joey Marquez of Parañaque City.

The lawyer said Aquino was "definitely" campaigning against the administration. "They talked about her endorsing either Senator Lacson or FPJ," he said of the conversation at dinner.

PING/ A20

Mourners demand death penalty

By Edson Tandoc Jr.
Aquiles Z. Zonio
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE FUNERAL of slain kidnap victim Betti Sy yesterday turned into one big rally calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty.

Thousands of students and teachers from Chinese schools in Metro Manila, members of anti-crime groups and the Chinese-Filipino community carried streamers that read: "Death to Kidnappers," "Kidnappers Bitayin" and "Justice for Betti Sy."

More than 300 cars, including a hundred fire trucks and sevefal school buses, joined the two-hour convoy from Funeraria Paz in Quezon City to the Ever Memorial Gardens in Valenzuela.

Sy, an executive of Coca-Cola, was found dead on Tuesday in Parañaque City a day after armed men snatched her. Alleged members of the Waray kidnap gang accidentally killed Sy when she refused to alight from her Toyota

MOURNERS/ A21

Less confrontational Church seen

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales of Lipa was installed on Friday as the 31st archbishop of Manila amid the pageantry of the 482-year sway of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines.

The fourth Filipino archbishop of Manila, a strategic seat of political and economic power of the Church in the country since Spanish times, set the tone of his ministry in his "First Words" following his installation at the Manila Cathedral.

The message of Rosales signaled a shift in the emphasis of the new Church hierarchy from the political activism that reached its nadir during the 29-year ministry of his predecessor, Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Rosales' message not only underlined his concern for the poor and national unity but also delivered a rebuke to disruptive politics. From his well-applauded speech, there was nothing to indicate

LESS/ A20

Camacho resignation spawns uncertainty

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Clarissa S. Batino

THE SURPRISE resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, President Macapagal-Arroyo's most senior economic adviser, has spawned more uncertainty in the financial markets as pre-election politicking begins to take precedence over governance.

Ms Macapagal yesterday said she was confident that the appointment of Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong as officer in charge of the finance department would stabilize the stock, currency and bond markets that have yet to fully react to Camacho's resignation.

But the local business community does not seem to share Ms Macapagal's optimism. Even Amatong herself does not plan to stay long as OIC of the finance department.

Camacho announced his resignation late Friday, hours after the close of the local stock market. The Philippine Dealing System, however, was still open then and the peso immediately fell to 55.585 against the US dollar, down significantly from Thursday's close of 55.29.

Market jitters may be gauged from the reaction of leading businessmen and analysts. Industrial-

CAMACHO/ A5

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS

JOAN BONDOC

Press freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr., who was buried Saturday in his farm in San Miguel, Bulacan, left behind some of his favorite things—cigarettes, Scotch whiskey and an ancient Underwood typewriter.

INQ TV Inquirer's newest baby

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—After making its mark on the World Wide Web through INQ7.net, the INQUIRER is setting its sights on something closer to home: Philippine television.

"INQ7.net has been very successful and is among the most visited news websites in the world. In 2004, we will venture into television," INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez announced during a luncheon the newspaper hosted on Saturday for delegates to the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress.

Taking a cue from the Ad Congress' bold theme, "What's the Big Idea?" Romualdez said the INQUIRER will launch "INQ TV" in January.

"INQ TV is the latest big idea of the INQUIRER. It's our new baby," she said.

Calling it the country's "only newspa-

INQ TV/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains while Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/11/24/03

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Solons bolting NPC for Lakas–GMA aide

By Carlito Pablo

WITH BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. definitely out of the presidential race, some congressmen belonging to his Nationalist People's Coalition are now lining up to join the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Secretary Gabriel Claudio, presidential legislative adviser, said the initial tide of NPC congressmen joining Lakas came from Eastern Visayas. Claudio is also the Cabinet Officer for Region 8.

Claudio identified the new recruits to the ruling party as Reps. Marcelino Libanan (Estarn Samar), Eduardo Veloso (Leyte) and Gerardo Espina Jr. (Biliran).

"I believe their support for the President will trigger similar movements among non-Lakas congressmen toward the GMA bandwagon," Claudio said.

The three NPC solons, however, did not confirm Claudio's claim that they were joining Lakas.

Espina, a veteran broadcaster, played it coy when reached for comment.

Espina pointed out that the coalition between the ruling Lakas-CMD of President Macapagal and Cojuangco's NPC was still intact.

Espina said that while he was close to the President, the NPC had yet to hold its national meeting on Dec. 5 to decide whom to support in 2004.

NPC founder Cojuango himself has not made known his choice for president in 2004.

Veloso, who chairs the House committee on natural resources, could not be reached for comment.

Claudio claimed that Eastern Visayas is "now firmly GMA country" after the three lawmakers bolted the NPC to join the ruling party.

Libanan is chair of the House committee on justice that threw out the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other Supreme Court justices for having sworn in Ms Macapagal as president at the height of the January 2001 Edsa People Power II.

An NPC source said that aside from Libanan, Veloso and Espina, Rep. Jesnar Falcon (NPC, Surigao del Sur) will also be joining the ruling party.

Another NPC source noted that Falcon will naturally gravitate toward the camp of Ms Macapagal because he is close to Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), a former tabloid publisher and a member of the President's campaign team.

A House source said Lakas is counting on at least six more NPC congressmen to join the party.

They were identified as Reps. Tomas Dumpit (La Union), Douglas Cagas (Davao del Sur), Alipio Cirilo Badelles (Lanao del Norte), Roseller Barinaga (Zamboanga del Norte), Generoso Tulagan (Pangasinan) and Conrado Estrella III (Pangasinan).

But a source close to Tulagan said the lawmaker was under strong pressure from his constituents to support movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Poe, who has yet to formally declare his candidacy, traces his roots to San Carlos City, Pangasinan, which is in Tulagan's district.

Politicians come calling on Rosales 3 days into job

By Blanche S. Rivera

LESS than 72 hours into his new post, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is getting a taste of urban politics. He, however, remained firm in his stand that too much politics has divided Filipinos and destroyed their values.

Rosales, who replaced Jaime Cardinal Sin on Friday, admitted that he has been getting a lot of requests for appointments and invitations from the politicians who flocked to his installation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has announced her candidacy for president in 2004, led top government officials who attended Rosales' installation as new head of the powerful Archdiocese of Manila.

Several politicians, including Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda, both probable vice presidential contenders, breached protocol to greet Rosales during Friday's liturgical rites which was supposed to be only for the priests of the archdiocese.

Rosales said that "excessive politics" has not only divided Filipinos but has destroyed their values and the culture of honesty which should spur change in the country.

The new archbishop, a known critic of the way politics is conducted in the Philippines, said he was ready to "play their (politicians) games but not go their way."

"In other words, I am selling them a better thing: Jesus Christ. I am sure He will be bought and embraced by Filipinos. That is my thrust and that is where hope will come from," Rosales said over Catholic-owned Radio Veritas yesterday.

"In that sense, they will renew themselves. (It's) an indirect way of helping politicians; there is a better way of serving the people," he said.

Rosales's first stop after his installation at the Manila Cathedral was Tondo, home of Manila's poorest and most destitute. He visited the place, which he called "the kingdom of God, the people with whom the Lord would start again."

Drilon joins LP; denies VP plans

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Senate President Franklin Drilon is joining the Liberal Party but not for the purpose of running for vice president in 2004.

The Ilonggo senator said there no conditions were set for his joining the LP although he will assume the party chairmanship when he formally joins it on Nov. 28.

The LP, which is in the administration's People Power Coalition, earlier named President Macapagal-Arroyo its honorary chairperson.

Drilon has not been affiliated with any party since leaving the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) in 2001. He, however, is a staunch supporter of President Macapagal.

Drilon dashed the speculation he was joining the LP in order to run for vice president in 2004, telling a radio interviewer here that he was joining the party because it "stands for principles that I am comfortable with."

Drilon also said that Ugyon, the regional party that he chairs, would coalesce with the LP. Ugyon counts among its members governors, mayors and councilors in Western Visayas.

Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr., Ugyon president, said he will be joining Drilon in swearing allegiance to the LP on Nov. 28.

Tupas said he saw no problem with joining the LP since Ugyon was a regional party. Besides, he said, he was LP chair for Iloilo's 5th congressional district in 1965.

Tupas headed the LP in Iloilo as a member of the Batasang Pambansa during the martial law regime and as president of the Iloilo League of Mayors. He was mayor of Barotac Viejo for many years and remained with the LP even after being elected congressman of the fifth district of Iloilo.

Two other governors in Western Visayas already belong to the LP—Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez of Antique and Vicente Bermejo of Capiz.

Tupas said Drilon's joining the LP would strengthen Ugyon because of the affiliation, while the LP would be able to spread its influence in Western Visayas. *With Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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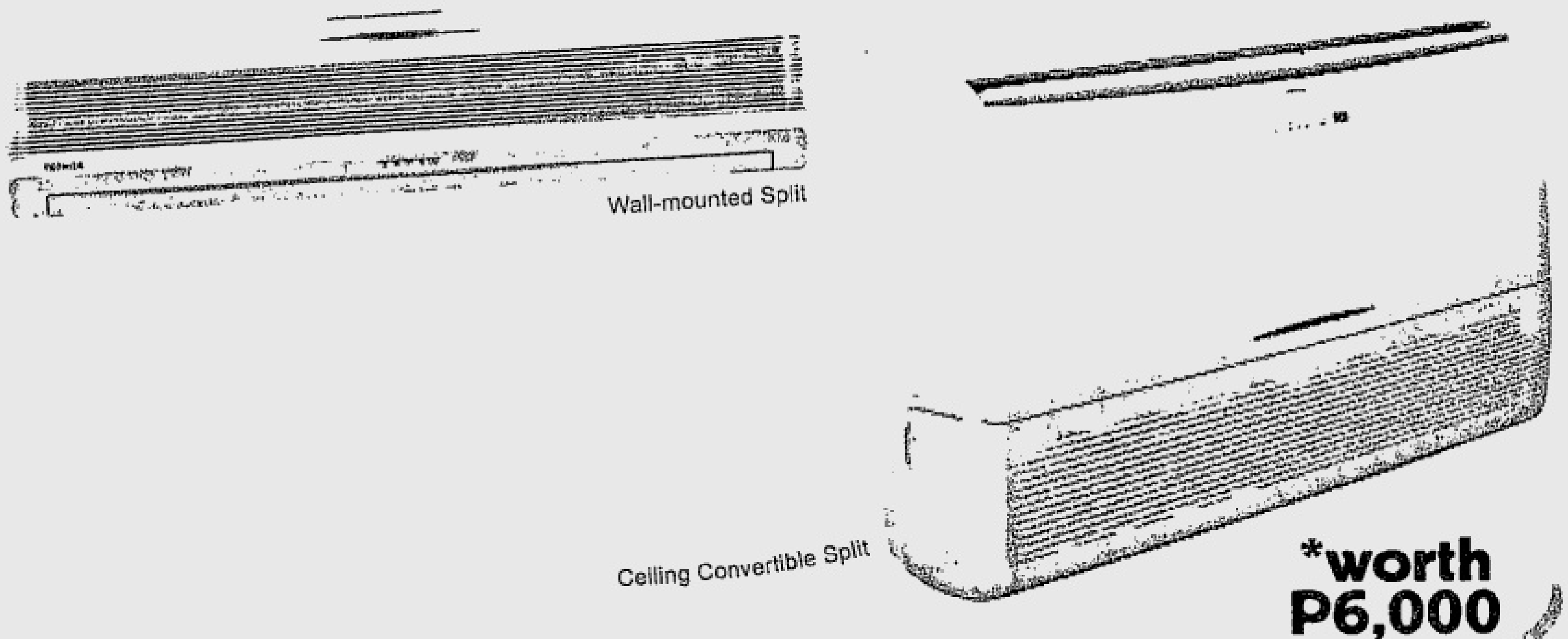

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A SUBDUED Miriam Defensor-Santiago and her husband, Jun Santiago, view their son AR's remains during yesterday's funeral Mass at the Ateneo. RUDY ESPERAS

Miriam: AR's death 'honorable'

By Jerry Esplanada

ALEXANDER Robert "AR" Santiago was laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City yesterday afternoon, three days after the 22-year-old Ateneo law freshman had sought what his mother called an "honorable death."

AR was found on Thursday with a gunshot wound in the head in his bedroom in the family home at La Vista, Quezon City.

At the funeral mass for AR at the Church of the Gesu on the Ateneo de Manila campus in Loyola Heights, former Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago thanked her son for "22 years of unqualified love."

Although "wounded beyond words" by his death, Santiago in her eulogy said AR "just flew back home to the Infinite Intelligence to complete his education in another level of existence, where there is no cruelty in the classroom and no hatred in a confused and divided society."

"Here lies an honorable man, who chose to love instead of to hate, who made the principled decision to turn the other cheek, instead of raising a sword," she said.

Holding back her tears, Ms Santiago said that before he took his own life, her son had "suffered in silence."

"AR graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and decided to go into law. He passed the written admission tests for both UP and Ateneo. Ominously, the faculty panel at UP which conducted what should have been a routine interview attacked him with politically-loaded questions that must have cut him to the quick. Questions like: "What is you reaction to the charge that your mother is insane?" she recalled.

"As AR struggled to keep his own native equanimity, a painful and cruel thing happened. Although he had passed the written exam, the faculty panel voted to refuse him admission. Maybe they did not like my politics, maybe some faculty members wanted to prove that they could hurt me. Whatever their motives, their cruelty spoke for itself. And maybe eventually it led to my son's decision to seek an honorable death in a world of incomprehensible adults who seem to thrive on hatred," Ms Santiago said.

AR was the younger of the two Santiago sons. Archie was older by 10 years. A few years ago, Miriam and her husband, former interior undersecretary Narciso Santiago Jr., adopted twin little girls Megan and Molly.

According to Miriam, AR "always said he did not want me in politics because he could not bear to see me suffer, and because, according to him, people should know me not as a Brunhilda in hobnailed boots but as his affectionate, devoted mom."

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Prelate won't give pushers sacrament

By Bernadette A. Parco
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Don't take communion," Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal yesterday advised persons involved in the illegal drugs trade, saying "they are receiving the sacrament of the living in a state of grave sin."

"There is a very fundamental inconsistency between the reception of the sacraments and involvement in a trade that is contrary to the values and person of Christ," the prelate said yesterday during the Feast of Christ the King.

The Cardinal had earlier said it was "sacrilegious" for people to receive communion while engaging in illegal activities.

"How could one continue to receive Christ in the sacraments when the same Christ had already been banished from one's heart through this illegal and gravely immoral trade?" he said.

Asked why the sacrament of communion was being singled out, Vidal said it was because "this (was) the sacrament that the people frequently received."

He said he could not include the sacraments of reconciliation (confession) and the anointing of the sick because these sacraments were usually availed of repentant sinners.

Vidal appealed to drug lords, drug pushers, financiers as well as persons involved in money laundering and their protectors in government to reflect on this declaration and ask God's mercy for themselves so they could return to the sacraments.

Vidal said he issued the appeal for drug traders to refrain from taking communion because this could not be imposed on churchgoers since priests, as a rule, could not just send away anyone who would approach to take the sacrament of communion.

"If you cannot heed this invitation, then we appeal to your conscience not to receive the sacrament," he said.

"In case they would like to return to the sacrament, they should show contrition by promising not to do these things again and to abandon their former way of life," the prelate said.

Polls could turn bloody with automation—Comelec

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections warned the other day that the 2004 polls could turn "bloody" after Congress approved a joint resolution limiting computerized elections to selected areas.

In a last-ditch attempt to prevent bloodshed, the Comelec has asked Malacañang to veto the resolution.

"Introduction of change at this crucial point, less than six months before election date, will entail an overhaul of our entire program and seriously compromise our ability to carry out our duty," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Malacañang has 30 days to veto the joint resolution crafted by the bicameral conference committee on the modernization of the elections.

Abalos said that if selected automation were implemented, election results could be known in Metro Manila and the other areas where computers were used within 24 hours.

"But it would take at least two days before the results in the other regions where manual voting took place would be known," Abalos said.

During this two-day lag, Abalos said, the supporters of the different candidates could become agitated and turn to violence as they await the final results of the counting.

"We have politicians who do not want to lose," Abalos pointed out.

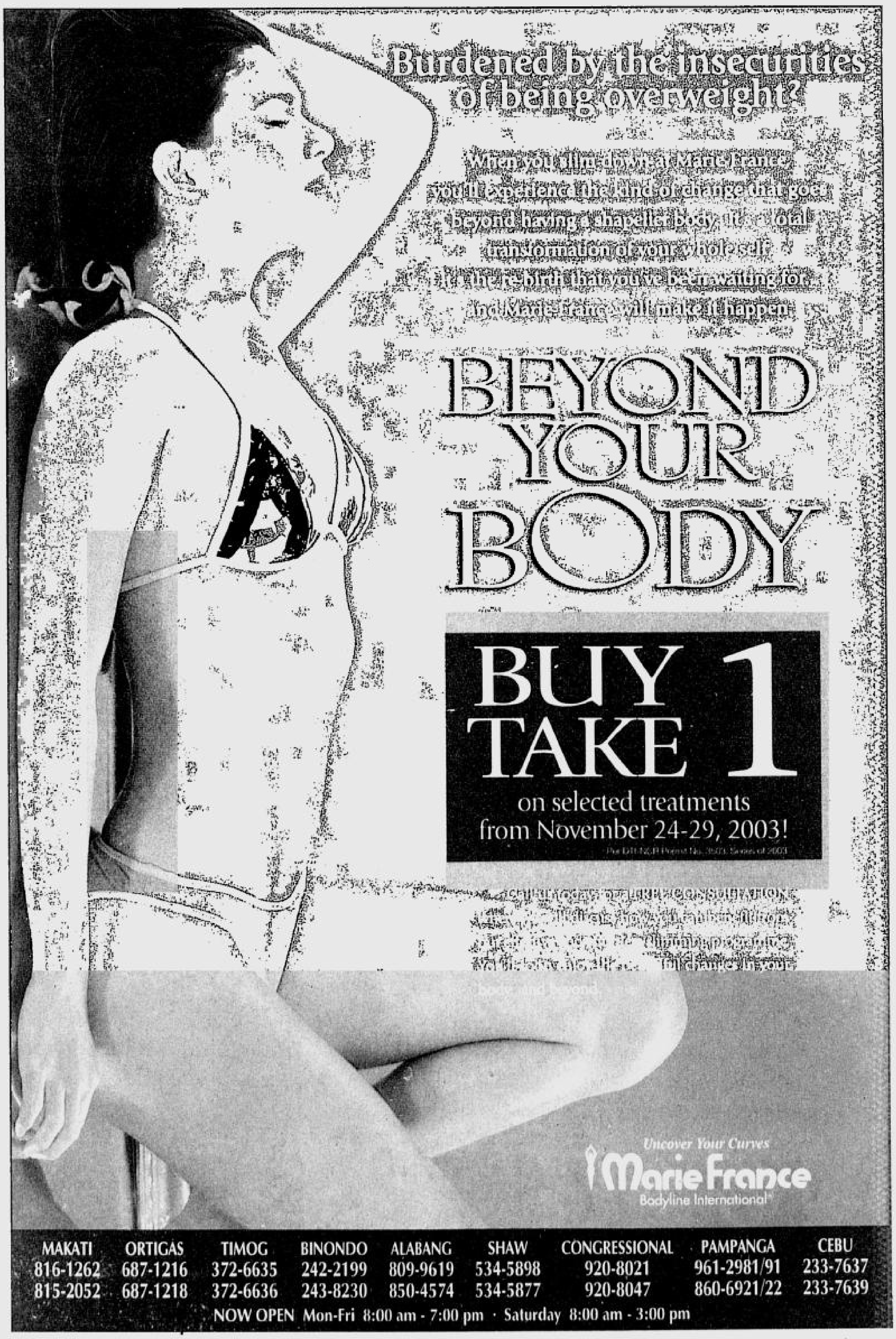
This was echoed by Comelec commissioner Resurreccion Borra, who said that if two systems were implemented, there would be confusion among their field men, the voters and the representatives of political parties.

"One of the consequences of the confusion is violence. Because people, more particularly the losing candidates and their supporters, would say their candidates would have won had it not been for the confusion," he said.

"Naturally and inimitably, the arguments will ripen into violence and, at times, bloodshed. That is why the chairman made a bold statement here, that we have only one system and that is nationwide automation," Borra said.

Comelec officials also cited other problems posed by the decision to implement selective automation.

These include the timetables for the bidding for the election materials like two different types of ballots, ballot boxes, the training of Comelec personnel, tally boards and time for information dissemination.



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‘Worst forms’ of child labor found in 8 areas

By Jerome Aning

CHILD labor in its "worst forms" has been found in eight areas in the Philippines.

The International Labor Organization, Asia Pacific Economic Forum and other groups have identified the "hotspots" as the National Capital Region, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Cebu and Davao.

In these places, the ILO said, children were engaged in domestic service, prostitution, mining and quarrying, sugar plantation work, deep sea fishing and pyrotechnics manufacturing.

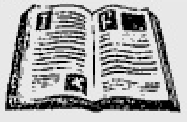
During a workshop of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Working Group-Education Network last week, ILO sub-regional office Deputy Director Carmela Torres said a task force has been formed to link up with local organizations working with children at risk in the eight regions.

"Child labor and the provision of basic education are two of the many unpolished and deformed faces of development in the Philippines," Torres said. "But although substantial progress has been made in providing quality basic education, this has not impacted on the issue of addressing child labor."

The National Statistics Office's (NSO) 2001 Survey on Working Children revealed that four million Filipino children between ages five and 17 were working, more than half of them in high-risk jobs. The same data showed that 30 percent or 1.25 million of these working children were out of school.

Congress recently ratified a bill that defines the worst forms of child labor to include slavery, prostitution, pornography, drug trafficking and participation in armed conflict. Also listed are jobs hazardous to children's health, safety or morals, such as mining and quarrying, deep sea fishing and pyrotechnics manufacturing.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, November 24, 2003
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20
Gospel: Lk 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasure box; he also saw a poor widow dropping in two small coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them. For all gave an offering from their plenty, but she, out of her poverty, gave all she had to live on."

Commentary

"Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them." Someone said: "Giving one's superfluous wealth does not mean much. The gift of possessions is never comparable to the gift of self. Jesus did not give us things he had, he gave himself, his blood and his life. The widow gave all she had. As long as we keep a single centavo for ourselves, we have not given our all. A Christian is a person of total commitment." (Nil Guillmette, A Kingdom for All, p. 96) At the end of our life, the Lord will not ask us how much we have saved but how much we have given away. On the cross, Jesus gave everything until he had nothing left.

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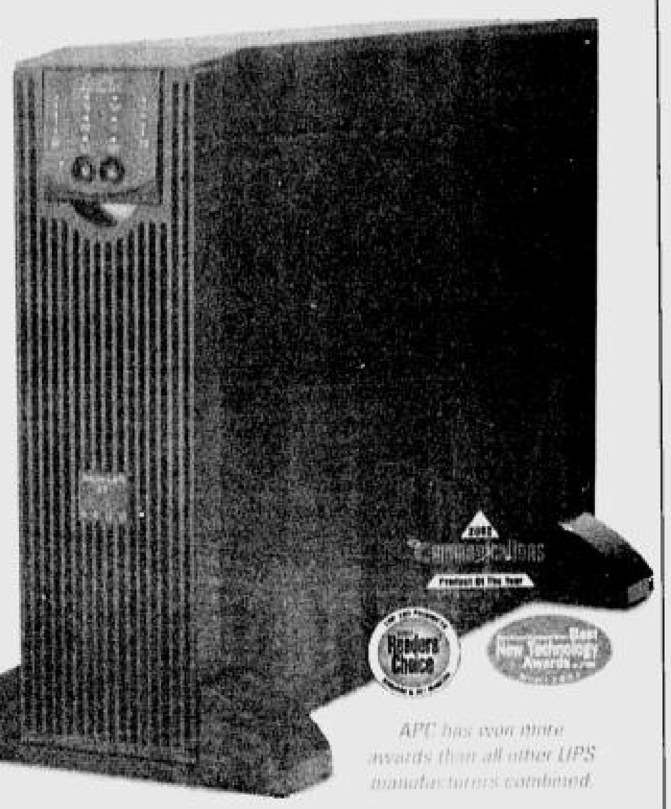

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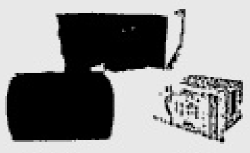

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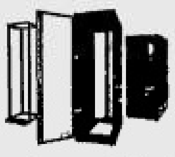

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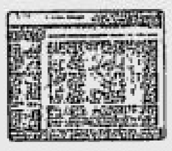

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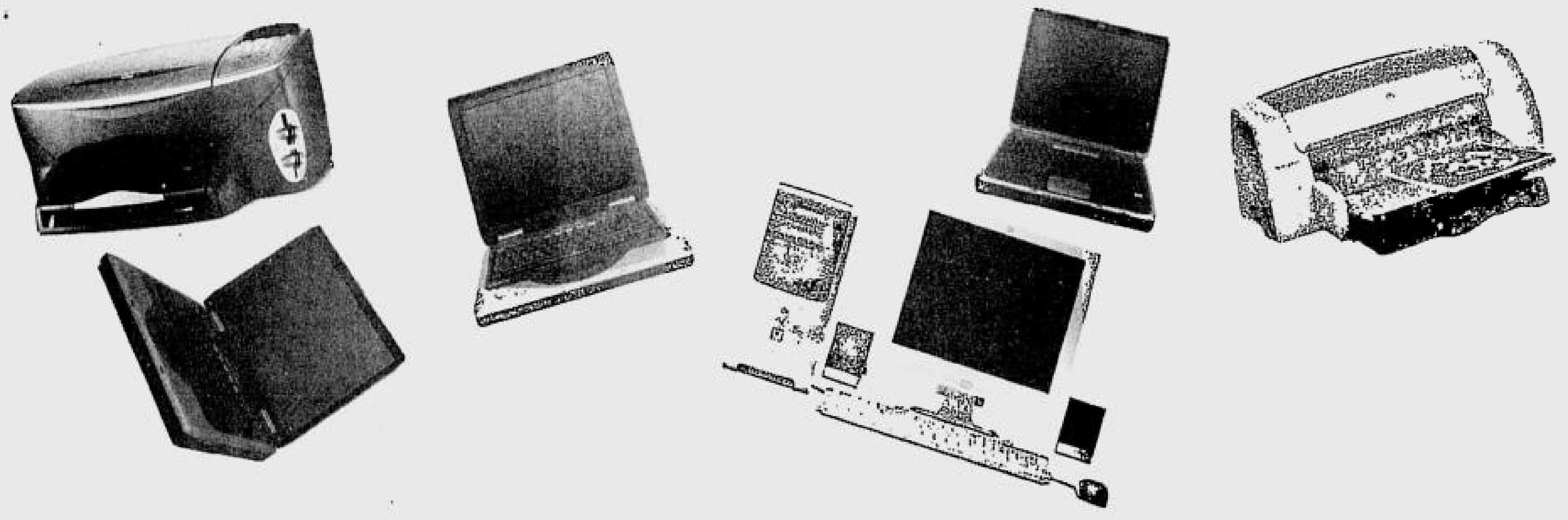

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Camacho ...

From page A1

ist Raul T. Concepcion, for instance, said Camacho's shoes were too big for Amatong to fill.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, described Amatong as a professional, but he said the business community "does not have the same confidence as before."

The financial community would be closely watching to see who would replace Camacho, said Astro del Castillo of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"The effect will be negative until they find a good replacement," he said. "If the replacement has the same credibility with foreign investors, it will be OK."

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, head of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, warned that Camacho's resignation would affect the country's prospects of getting foreign loans.

"You need somebody who can be considered a heavyweight in the international market," he said, expressing doubt that Amatong would have the required stature.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said she was "confident" Amatong would continue with the administration's economic policies.

"This is a course that has generated a record low inflation, fiscal stability, and enhanced revenue collection. Her appointment sends a clear signal of continuity and stability to the financial markets," said Ms Macapagal in a statement.

The President met with Amatong yesterday morning after attending Mass at the Malacañang chapel to discuss her new responsibilities on Dec. 1 when Camacho's resignation would take effect. Camacho had endorsed Amatong, the most senior among his deputies, as his replacement.

Ms Macapagal said Amatong, currently head of the department's International Finance Group, was "well-respected at home and abroad." She also cited Amatong's good relationships with big financial institutions, like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

But Amatong yesterday said she had declined to serve as acting finance secretary until the end of Ms Macapagal's present term.

"There is big difference between an acting secretary and just OIC. I would just be an OIC because I still want them to look for other people for the position," Amatong said.

She said Camacho's stint at the finance department showed that it was not enough to just have the competence and skills for the job. "One has to be politically adept as well," she said.

Camacho vaguely referred to frustrations arising from politics as one of the reasons for his departure. "Between now and the end of (Arroyo's current) term, politics is going to take center stage. I do not have to participate in that," he said on Friday.

Concepcion suggested that the Macapagal administration should calm the nerves of local and foreign investors by immediately looking into the issues that physically and emotionally drained Camacho and prompted him to resign.

Businessmen have also voiced concern that Camacho bowed out, barely six months before Ms Macapagal stands for reelection in May, a time when political pressure to loosen the purse strings becomes strongest.

Ms Macapagal, however, has vowed to pursue macroeconomic reforms aimed at keeping the country's chronic budget deficit and inflation under control.

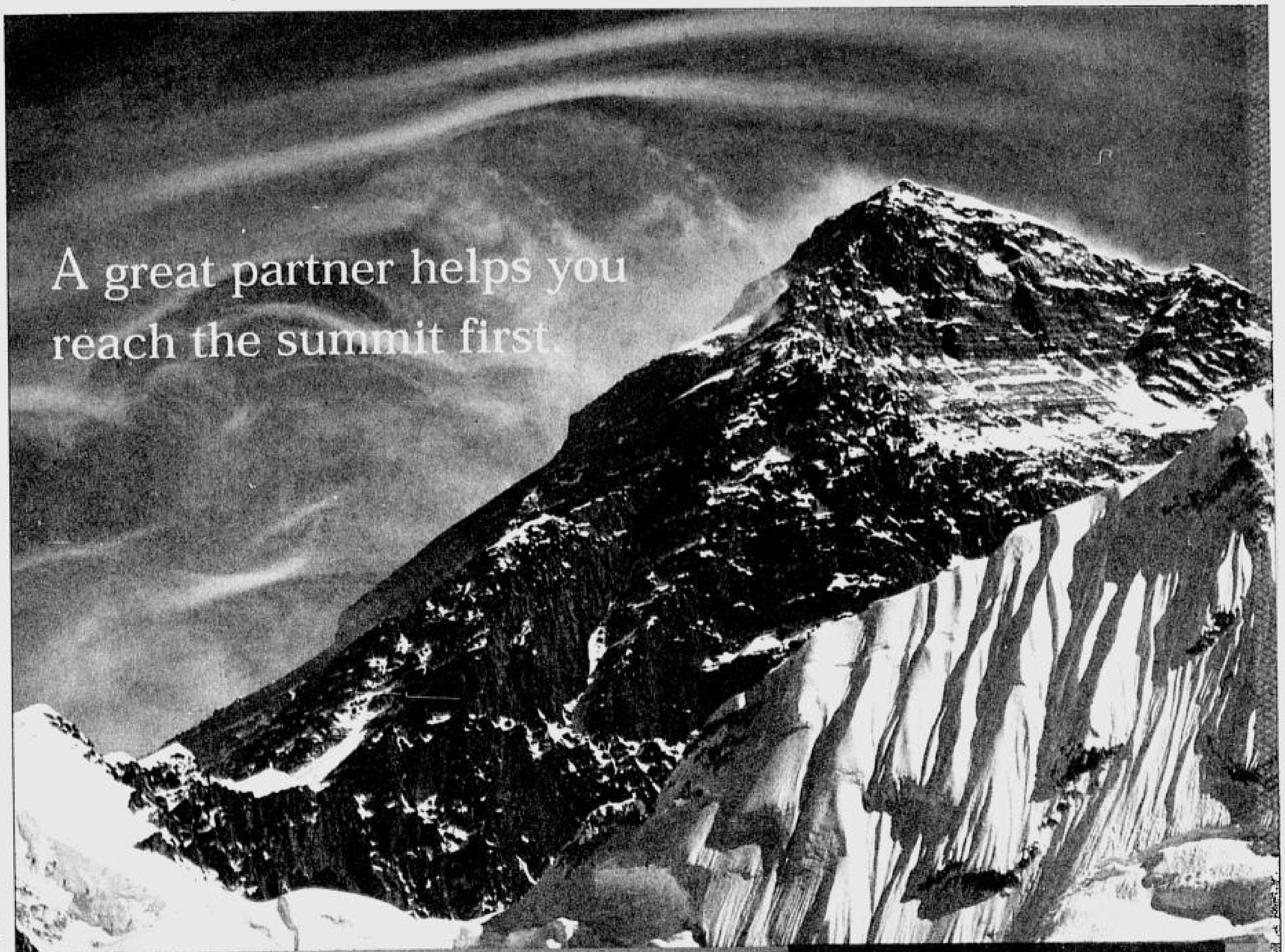
Camacho's swift action on the deficit had given the Philippines a measure of international respectability. The budget deficit in the first 10 months of the year stood at P163.88 billion, or 4.7 percent below the official ceiling. The government is confident the full-year figure would be within the target ceiling of P202 billion.

Even so, financial markets are expected to be volatile this week.

"We will continue to experience some volatility on the peso and ROP (Philippine bond) spreads," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters.

"The weekend will provide time for market players to digest the news of Camacho's resignation. If ever there is some reaction, it should be temporary," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco added.

Fears that Camacho's departure would hurt the country's fiscal position ahead of elections in May also dampened the debt market. *With reports from Reuters and AFP*



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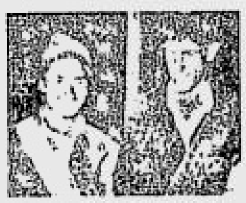
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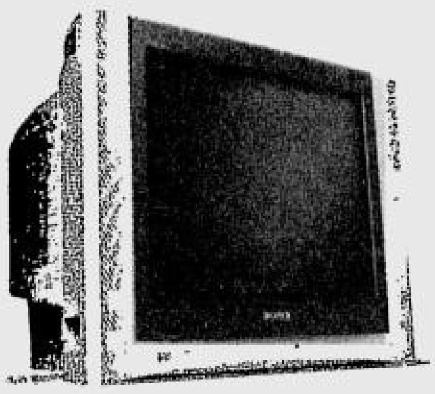

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4 killed in Laguna jail riot

A RIOT broke out in the Laguna provincial jail in Santa Cruz town yesterday, leaving four people dead and 11 injured, officials said.

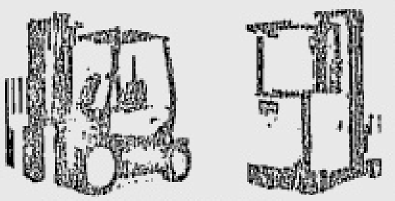
Jail officials confirmed the number of casualties in the clash that involved members of the Sputnik Gang, but it was not immediately known if the casualties were prisoners, guards or both.

Officials said an investigation was underway, but refused to give more details.

Radio station dzMM reported that guards had used tear gas to break it up.

The station said gang members attacked guards, hurling heavy objects prompting the guards to fire at the prisoners.

The station said two of the bodies were being held by the prisoners who refused to turn them over to jail officials. *AP*



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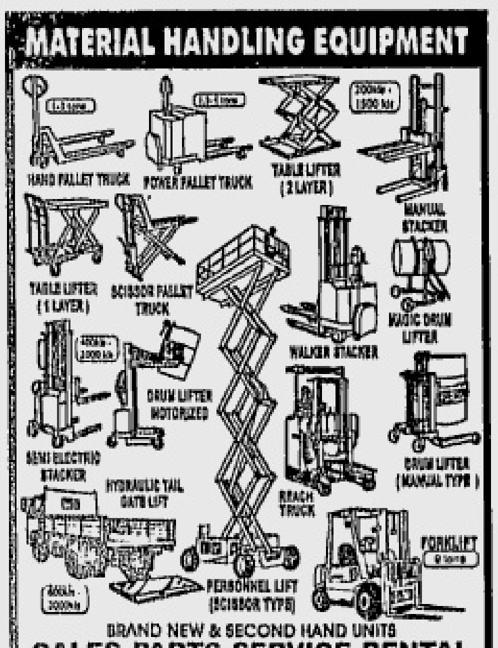

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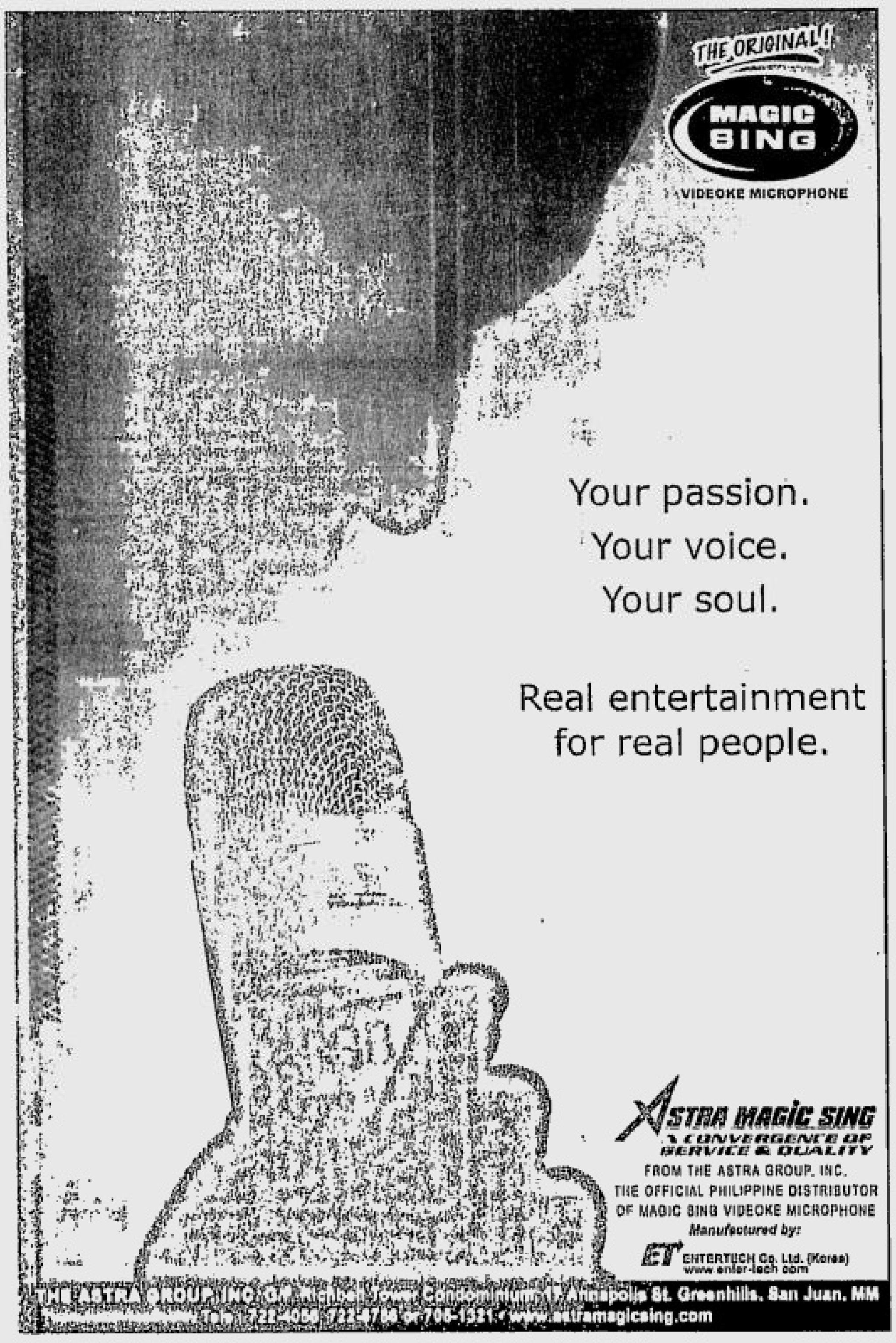

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There's still time to pass 2004 budget, says Angara

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said Congress had enough time to pass the P864-billion budget for 2004, warning that letting the government begin next year, an election year, with this year's budget could be dangerous.

"Applying the old spending law is like endorsing a blank check to the [Macapagal] administration," Angara said in a statement.

He said carrying over the 2003 budget to 2004 would mean a lump sum allocation and the "money could be juggled around, with the administration lording over it."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said last week the government would have to work with a re-enacted budget because time had run out for the passage of the 2004 budget.

Angara said the lawmakers could work "double time" and call a special session of Congress to pass the budget. "We must have a newly minted national budget," he said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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GETTING more Filipinos to speak Japanese would remove the biggest concern for Japanese investors in the Philippines, a Japanese business leader said.

Takashi Nakamura, chief executive of software developer Agent Ltd., said the survey of 120 Japanese companies conducted last year found that Japanese language skills were the biggest factor in deciding whether to work with foreign companies.

In a presentation to Filipino companies released yesterday, Nakamura said Japanese are "still scared of the language barrier between you and them."

Technical skills were the second biggest factor followed by cost and then experience in working with the Japanese, he said. *AFP*

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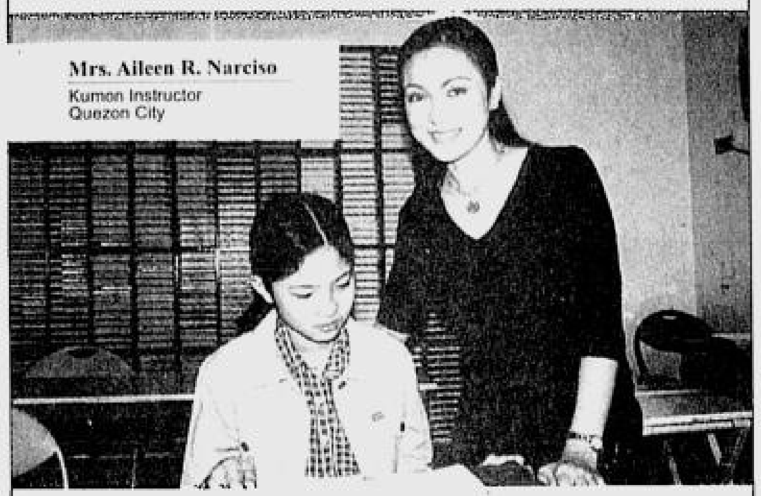

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Georgia in chaos

SHEVARDNADZE: Vows not to resign AP

TBILISI—Diplomatic efforts were under way in Georgia Sunday after the country was plunged into chaos following the storming of parliament by angry demonstrators and a state of emergency declared by embattled President Eduard Shevardnadze.

Meanwhile the Georgian defense minister urged calm and said the army had been given no orders to use force by Shevardnadze, who was forced to flee parliament Saturday and retreat to his residence outside the capital Tbilisi.

"There is no order from the commander in chief to use force. The president warned me that under no circumstances should measures be taken that could lead to bloodshed," David Tevzadze said on national television.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov arrived mid-morning at Shevardnadze's residence to hold talks with the beleaguered Georgian leader, who was forced out of parliament in mid-speech after protesters broke into the building.

Ivanov, who met opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili shortly after flying into Tbilisi overnight, voiced hope that the crisis could be resolved without endangering the country's constitution and order.

"We are concerned in principle that all developments evolve in the framework of the constitution and law, and any such resolution will answer the long-term interests of Georgia and Caucasus as a whole," the minister said upon arrival.

"I think Russia will play a constructive role," Saakashvili said after more than an hour of talks with Ivanov.

Shevardnadze also talked by telephone late Saturday with US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Georgian president's office said.

Both Powell and Putin expressed concern over the political crisis in the Caucasus country and their hope that it would be resolved peacefully. Powell had also said he would visit Georgia soon, albeit without giving a date.

Both the government and the opposition pledged themselves to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"Together with our opponents we have to be ready to find a way out of the situation and are ready to meet," State Minister Avtandil Dzhorbenadze said.

Nino Burjanadze—the speaker of parliament before the November parliamentary election that sparked the crisis, and declared by the opposition acting president pending new elections—echoed the sentiment.

"We need peace and a peaceful solution to this conflict," Burjanadze said in an interview with CNN television, echoing earlier opposition calls for a "velvet revolution" along the lines of the peaceful overthrow of communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989.

Burjanadze was declared "president of the country until new parliamentary elections and new presidential elections are held," said Saakashvili, who has orchestrated almost daily opposition protests since a disputed November ballot sparked the unrest.

Official results said the Nov. 2 election was won by Shevardnadze's party and supporters. But the opposition—along with foreign governments and international observers—said it was marred by fraud and has demanded Shevardnadze's resignation and fresh elections.

Meanwhile, Georgia's interior minister vowed to enforce the state of emergency and hours later, the country's government-controlled television channel briefly went off the air.

Some 3,000 protesters kept a vigil outside the offices of Rustavi-2, the nation's most popular television station that has backed the opposition, after it said on live air that it had information that armed men were going to try and shut it down. *AFP*

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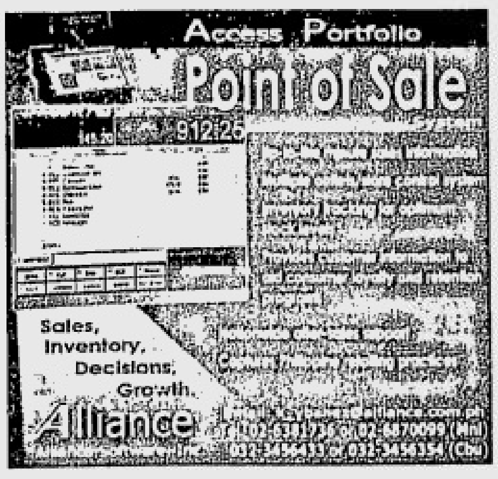

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Jacko 'trial of the century' set to eclipse OJ, Kobe frenzies

JACKSON AFP

LOS ANGELES—America is bracing for a new trial of the century as the media firestorm sparked by Michael Jackson's arrest looked set to eclipse the celebrity frenzy generated by OJ Simpson and Kobe Bryant.

Five days after authorities swooped on Jackson's extravagant Neverland Ranch accusing him of molesting a child, US media were breathlessly heralding a televised legal marathon that will be followed across the world.

The extraordinary scrutiny of every move in the case could by far outpace the furor over the 1995 murder trial of athlete and star Simpson, this year's rape allegations against NBA star Bryant and the murder charges filed Thursday against US pop music mogul Phil Spector.

"I think that there is something in our psyche where people ... like peeking ... through a mirror at the fall or the troubles or foibles that wealthy or famous people face," said lawyer Johnnie Cochran, who defended Simpson in the last trial of the century in which he was acquitted of killing his ex-wife and her lover in 1994.

"This may even outstrip that. We'll have to see because I believe there will be a trial," Cochran, who also represented Jackson when he was accused of abusing a 13-year-old boy in 1993, told WMC-TV in Tennessee.

Harvey Levin, executive producer of the "Celebrity Justice" television show agreed. "In some ways it is bigger than OJ Simpson because he is an international star," he told CNN.

US television last week generated live wall-to-wall coverage of everything from the repeated arrivals of aircraft that might or might not have been carrying the "King of Pop" to his arrest; to pictures of the outside of a Las Vegas hotel where he might—or might not—be holed up.

The frantic excitement and dubious news reports only increased when top celebrity lawyer Mark Geragos took the spotlight as Jackson's defense lawyer when he was arrested Thursday.

Geragos defended movie star Winona Ryder in her highly mediatized shoplifting trial last year and is now representing Scott Peterson, a California man accused of killing his pregnant wife and unborn son on Christmas eve.

The almost farcical Jackson coverage prompted a wry reaction from Los Angeles Times columnist Tim Rutten.

"We have combed the four corners of the courthouse to bring together this never-before-seen collection of novelties and oddities for your entertainment and edification," he wrote in Saturday's paper.

"See the enigmatic Kobe Bryant, the wretched Scott Peterson, the pretty-weird-even-for-the-music-business Phil Spector and, most of all, the incredibly bizarre Jacko!" *AFP*

Istanbul bombers Turks, says 'shamed' premier

ISTANBUL—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke Saturday of his shame that the bombers who blew themselves in a week of carnage in Istanbul were fellow Turks as police rounded up more suspects.

But Erdogan vowed that the predominantly Muslim nation would not be cowed by the two sets of massive attacks that rocked Turkey's biggest city, and thousands of people staged defiant marches for peace in several cities.

Turkey was on high alert ahead of a major Muslim holiday after the United States issued a worldwide warning that the al-Qaida network may strike again after claiming the wave of Istanbul attacks that killed at least 53 people.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer is to visit the capital Ankara on Monday in "a gesture of solidarity with the Turkish people" after the strikes, his spokesperson Walter Lindner said.

Fischer will hold talks with Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul on how to fight extremism and on Turkey's European Union membership bid.

Turkey has been an EU candidate since 1999 but has yet to win a date to start accession talks, with the EU demanding more progress on key reforms notably involving human rights and treatment of its ethnic Kurdish minority.

Erdogan said he was ashamed that four suicide bombers in the attacks on British and Jewish targets—the worst bombings in modern Turkey's 80-year history—were Turkish nationals with international links.

"Four of those (dead) were terrorist citizens," said Erdogan, whose Islamist-rooted party took power a year ago. But he added: "Bombs will not stop us living freely."

The death toll from Thursday's strikes on the British consulate and the Turkish headquarters of London-based banking giant HSBC rose to 28 after a woman died of severe head injuries, health officials said. *AFP*

US Congress votes to block junk e-mail

WASHINGTON—The US House of Representatives on Saturday overwhelmingly voted to curb the spread of unsolicited Internet junk mail, making the first attempt to regulate content on the worldwide web since its launch in the 1990s.

By a vote of 392-5, the congressional chamber approved the Can-Spam Act of 2003 that will allow millions of Americans to block unsolicited commercial e-mail traffic or so-called "spam" that has become at best a nuisance and at worst a threat to millions of Internet users around the world.

The Senate passed a similar piece of legislation targeting junk e-mail last month. It is largely expected to accept changes introduced in the House bill.

"For the first time during the Internet-era, American consumers will have the ability to say no to spam," said Republican Rep. Billy Tauzin, chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, a key promoter of the measure.

"What's more, parents will be able to breathe easier knowing that they have the ability to prevent pornographic spam from reaching defenseless, unsuspecting children," he pointed out.

The bill gives Internet users the right to opt out of all commercial e-mail traffic, prohibits the sending of fraudulent spam, and introduces stiff fines for illegal spam messages.

In addition, people who flood the Internet with unsolicited advertisements can be sued under the legislation for damages of up to $2 million, an amount that can be tripled to $6 million for intentional violations.

Pornographic e-mails will have to carry special electronic labeling so they can be easily filtered out by personal computers, and the government will be required to set up a "do-not-spam" registry that will legally bar spam distributors from sending their fare to its participants.

The measure grew out of increasing complaints by Internet users, who find their e-mail accounts jammed daily with dozens, if not hundreds, of unwanted messages offering everything—from pictures of scantily clad beauties and male potency-enhancing Viagra pills to dubious get-rich-quick schemes.

But despite its seediness, the spam business is expanding in leaps and bounds, with experts saying that 70 percent of daily worldwide e-mail traffic, which includes over 25 billion messages, represents nothing but spam. *AFP*

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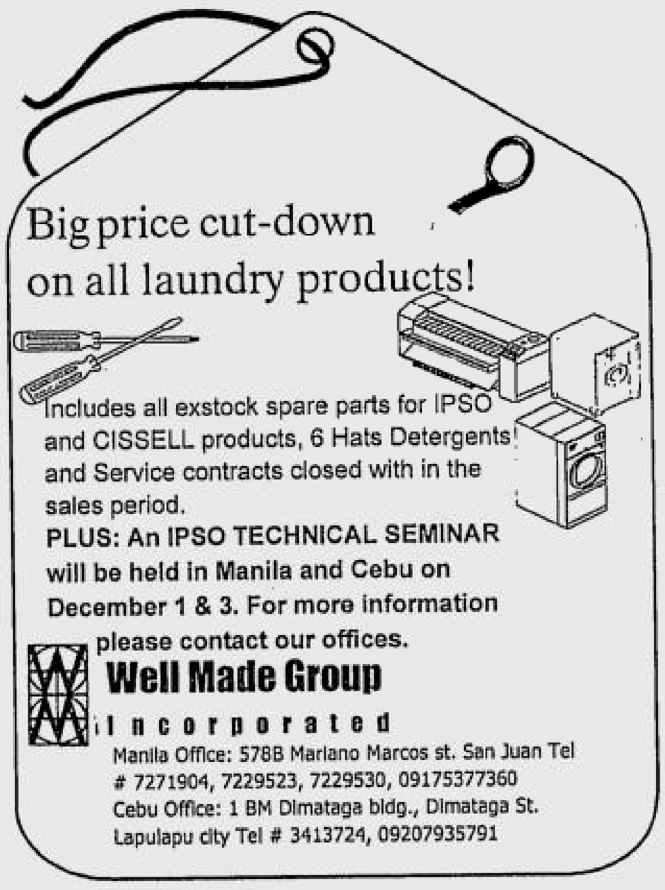

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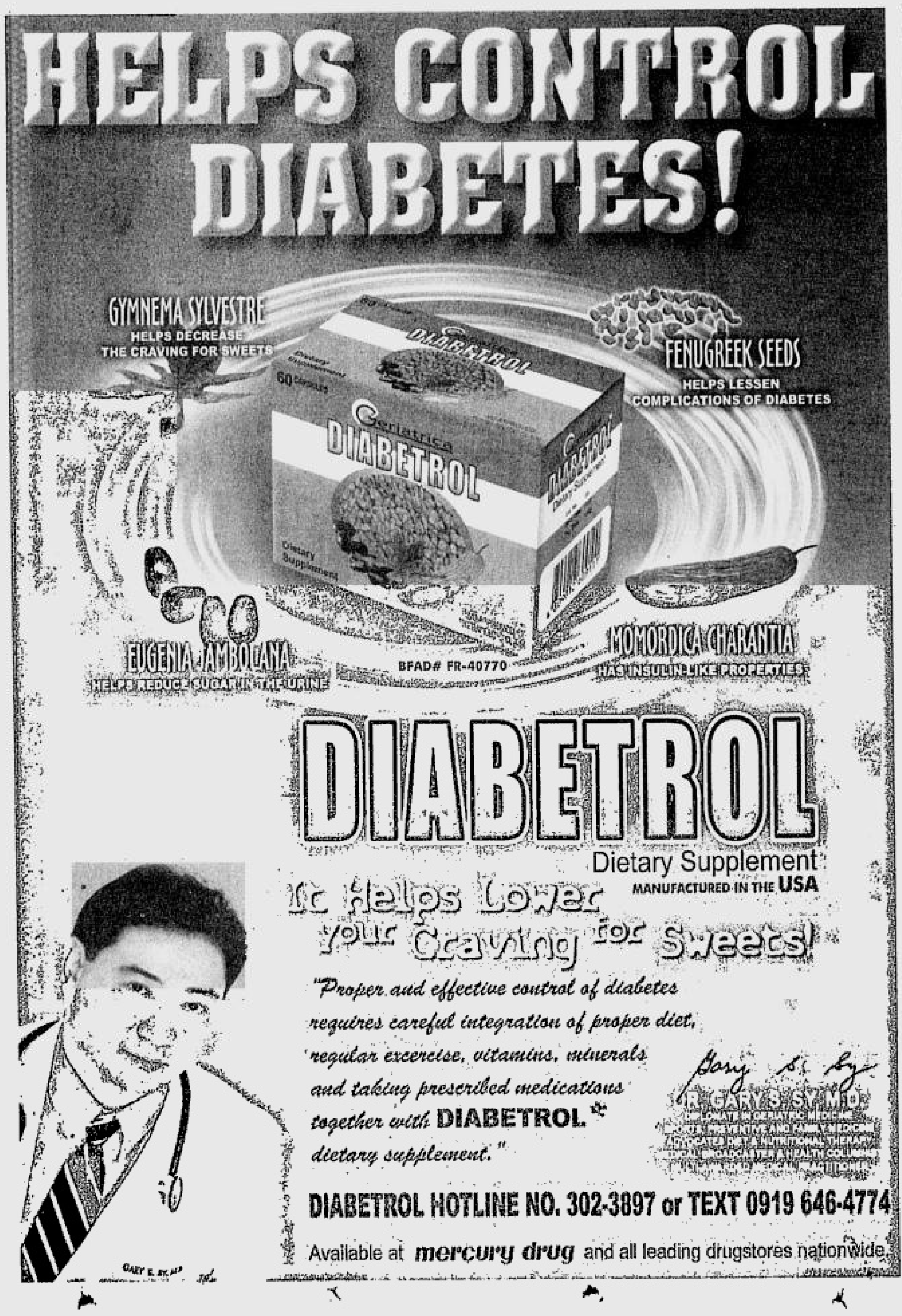

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FBI admits 'routinely' monitoring civic groups

Flawed M-16 rifle faces earlier retirement

BAGHDAD, Iraq—After nearly 40 years of battlefield service around the globe, the M-16 may be on its way out as the standard US Army assault rifle because of flaws highlighted during the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

US officers in Iraq say the M-16A2—the latest incarnation of the 5.56 mm firearm—is quietly being phased out of front-line service because it has proven too bulky for use inside the Humvees and armored vehicles that have emerged as the principal mode of conducting patrols since the end of major fighting on May 1.

The M-16, at nearly 100 cm (40 inches), is widely considered too long to aim quickly within the confines of a vehicle during fire fights, when reaction time is a matter of life and death.

"It's a little too big for getting in and out of vehicles," said Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armored Division, which controls Baghdad. "I can tell you that as a result of this experience, the Army will look very carefully at how it performed."

Instead of the M-16, which also is prone to jamming in Iraq's dusty environment, M-4 carbines are now widely issued to American troops.

The M-4 is essentially a shortened M-16A2, with a clipped barrel, partially retractable stock and a trigger mechanism modified to fire full-auto instead of three-shots bursts. It was first introduced as a personal defense weapon for clerks, drivers and other non-combat troops.

"Then it was adopted by the Special Forces and Rangers, mainly because of its shorter length," said Col. Kurt Fuller, a battalion commander in Iraq and an authority on firearms.

Fuller said studies showed that most of the combat in Iraq has been in urban environments and that 95 percent of all engagements have occurred at ranges shorter than 100 meters, where the M-4, at just over 75 cm (30 inches) long, works best. *AP*

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Bureau of Investigation is routinely monitoring civic groups it believes might commit acts of violence or terrorism in the hope of furthering political goals, a bureau official said late Saturday.

The admission follows last week's clashes between Miami police and anti-globalization protesters determined to thwart efforts to create a free trade zone in the Western Hemisphere that they believe will benefit only multinational corporations and harm the environment.

About 220 activists were arrested in Miami, which hosted talks between trade ministers negotiating to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas, according to local police.

"Our interest is in individuals, or groups, or terrorist groups that would either be committing acts of violence or criminal activity in support of their particular cause," FBI spokesman Bill Carter told AFP.

"Our interest is in developing intelligence about criminal or violent activity that could have an effect on individuals who might be protesting legally."

He said every time there is a large gathering of people—be it a trade conference or a sports event—the FBI examines it from the point of view of its vulnerability to violence or terrorist attack and sets up a command center to coordinate activities with local law enforcement agencies.

But Carter said the bureau was not interested in individuals who are exercising their constitutional right to protest.

The FBI maintains constant contact with local law enforcement agencies through weekly intelligence bulletins, in which it shares often confidential tips about the most recent terrorist threats and other activities that might disrupt US communities, according to justice officials.

Carter said such communications had started long before the September 11 terrorist attacks, were routine, and were part of "an attempt to share information or intelligence of criminal activity of the part of groups or individuals that would be involved in criminal activity."

"If there is information about either training camps that train individuals on how to commit acts of violence as such, then that's the information that we would share with law. enforcement," he said.

Asked if protester training camps held recently on the West Coast to prepare activists for acts of civil disobedience would be of interest to the FBI, Carter answered: "Yes." *AFP*

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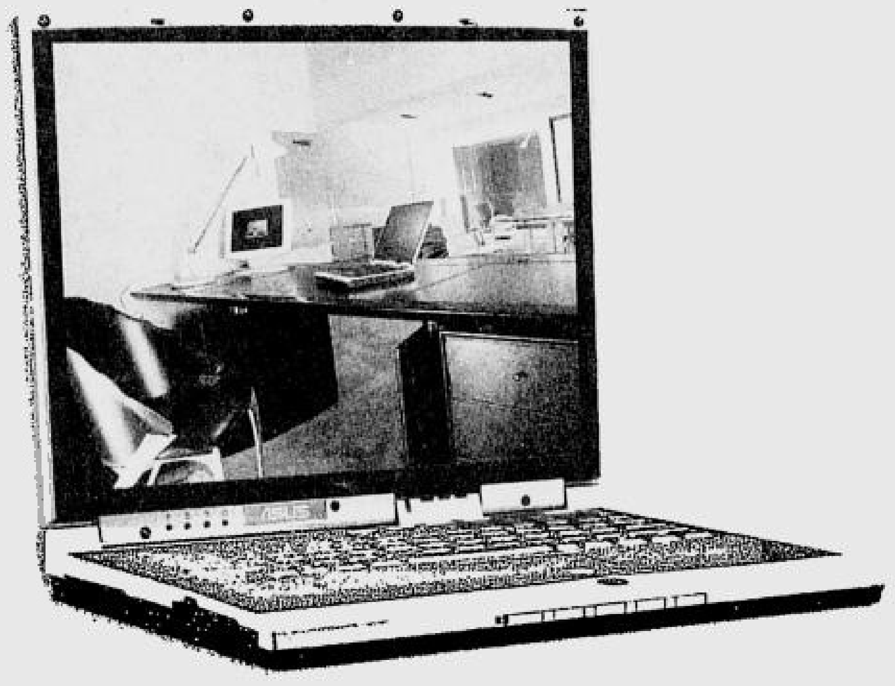

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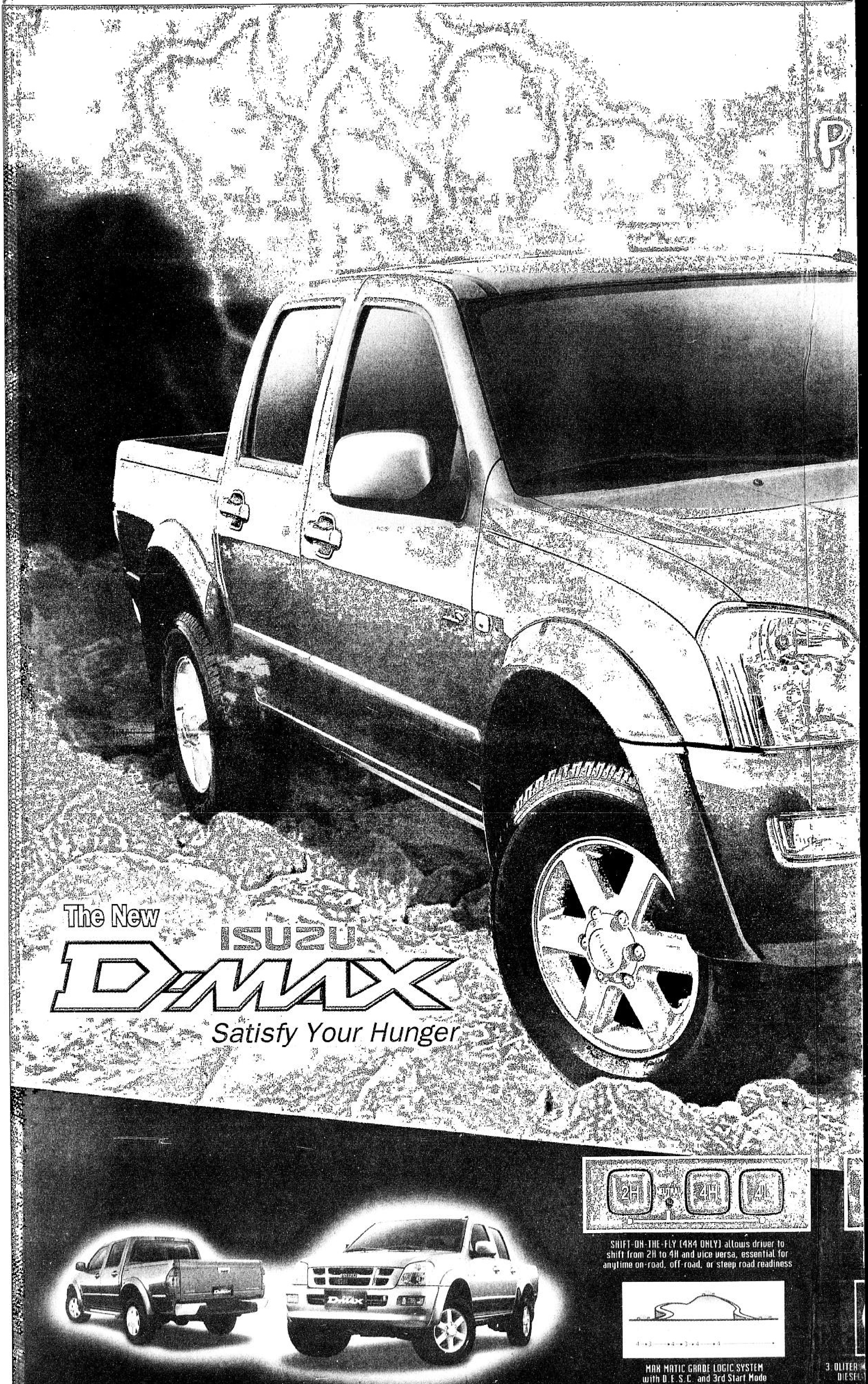
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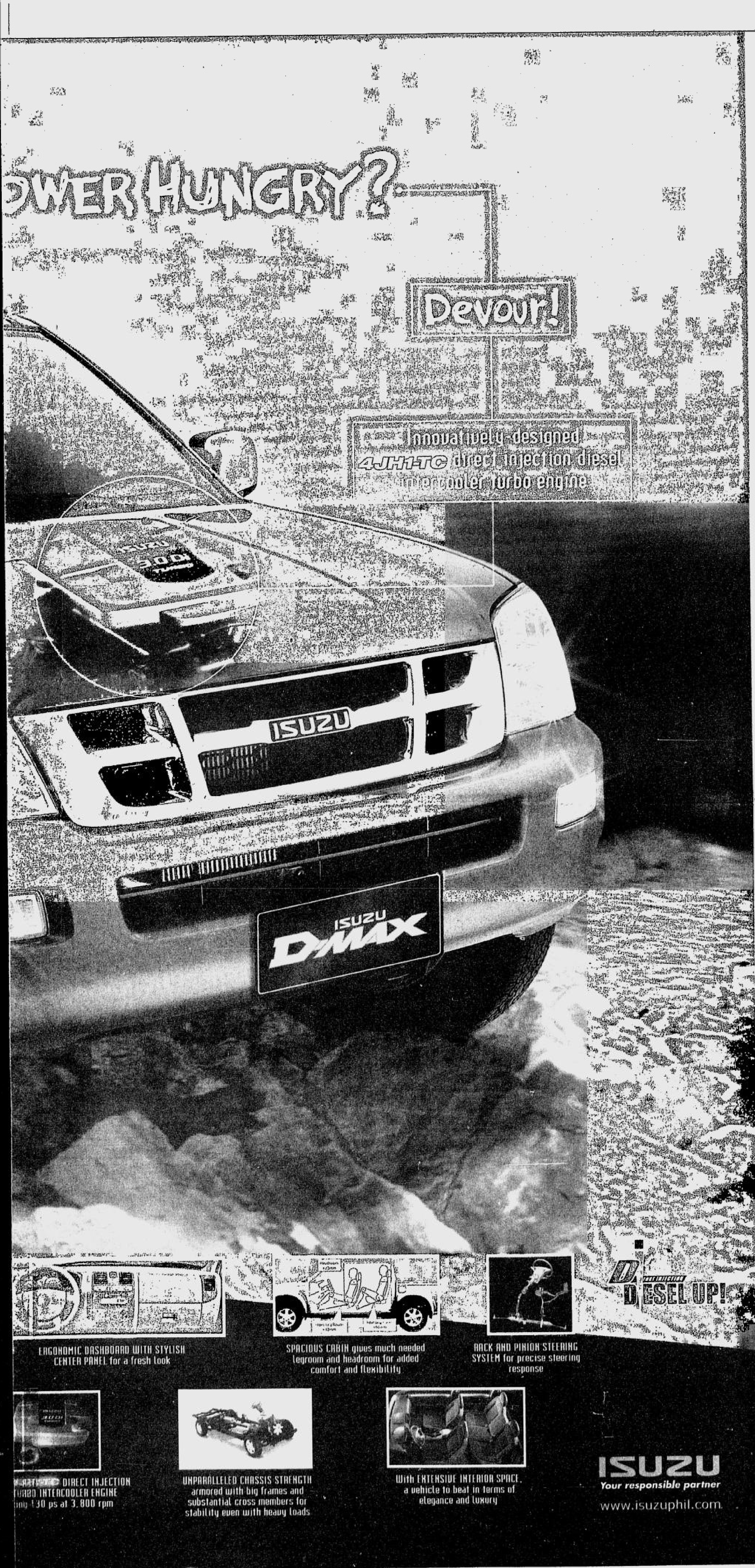
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OPINION

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Toward reform

EDITORIAL

THE "BANGON" movement launched by over a thousand members in Club Filipino last Thursday demands attention—not least because Vice President Teofisto Guingona used the occasion to announce he would not run in next year's elections.

A citizens' movement like "Bangon" is premised on the idea of self-sacrifice; members take on new responsibilities, or commit seriously to their old ones, at some cost. Even the basic duty of reporting a crime forces a citizen to break out of what psychologists call his comfort zone. The cost of reporting, say, a congressman's pork barrel irregularities can only be greater.

That is why it was fitting that the 30-odd multi-sectoral organizations behind "Bangon" chose Guingona as its leader: the messenger was the message.

The Vice President noted that "many had asked" him to run for President in May. This may be bravado on his part, a hard habit especially for politicians to break. Guingona has not fared well in the surveys, and no longer has the infrastructure of a national party to rely on. But even if Guingona is not on anyone's list of leading presidential candidates, his announcement still carries weight, simply because it is a renunciation.

How many politicians concede defeat in elections? In the Philippines, one either wins a vote or is cheated at the polls. In this context, therefore, Guingona's decision seizes the imagination for the same reason President Macapagal-Arroyo's Rizal Day declaration not to contest the elections stunned the nation. It wasn't politics as usual.

It seems likely that Guingona intended his declaration to contrast pointedly and dramatically with Ms Macapagal's change of mind. As its very name implies, "Bangon" is not incumbent-friendly. It cannot be, because it is based on an unfavorable reading of the current national situation.

In his keynote speech, Guingona did not mince words. He said "people are in despair," because of the unending litany of "scam after scam, scandal after scandal—so shocking that the nation has become callous."

"Bangon" is a response to this sense of despair; it represents yet another attempt by concerned citizens to take the future into their own hands.

Its organizers describe "Bangon" as a non-partisan, nationalist movement set up to pursue reform, fight corruption and correct social inequity.

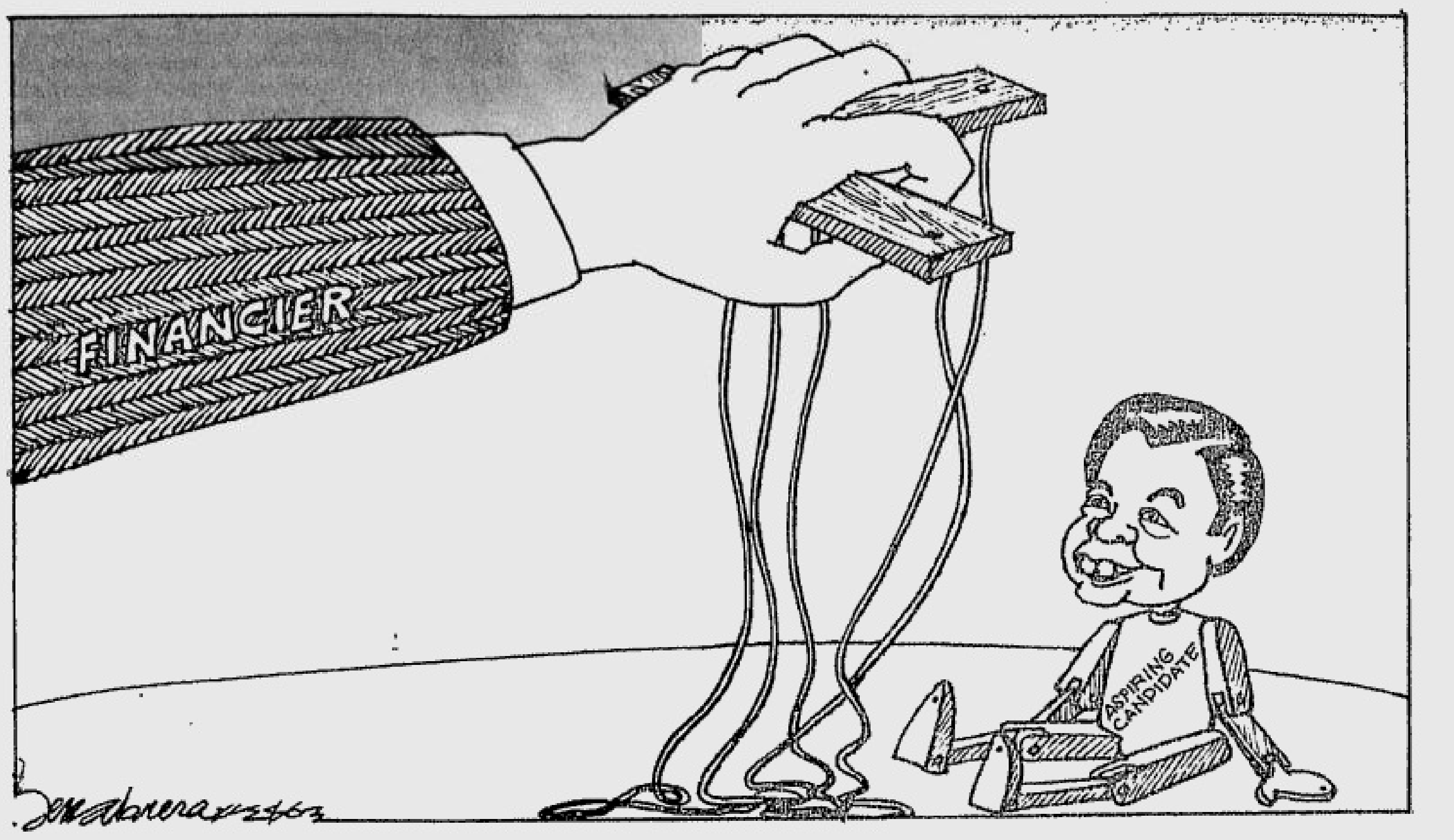
Its "action plan" seems a product of the post-Davide impeachment crisis. It strains to include judicial reform in its to-do list, to avoid any suggestion that it is anything less than an equal-opportunity reform movement committed to cleaning the Augean stables of all branches of government. Thus, "Bangon" seeks to abolish the pork barrel, ensure clean and credible elections—and source periodic performance audit reports of the judiciary.

Most of the reforms are ambitious in scope, but precisely because the movement is based on "a renewed sense of love of country among Filipinos, while also harnessing their productive energies to rebuild the country," the agenda for reform could not be anything but.

"Many say that because of the brazen betrayal of public trust, reforms within the system are no longer possible. We will seek correction, rectification and restitution. But if those accountable do not accept responsibility, we will denounce them publicly," Guingona said.

Of the many points the Vice President raised, this is the weakest. In our democratic experience, the media have played the role the Constitution assigned to them. Newspapers, TV and radio have not been remiss in exposing corruption in public office or irresponsibility by public officials.

What the "Bangon" movement should do is not simply denounce erring public officials, but file charges against them. The impeachment complaint filed against Joseph Estrada in 2000 was based in part on media reports, yes, but it was initiated and supported by private citizens, risking life outside their comfort zone.



BIR lost ₱138M in taxes due to typo error

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ONE of the reasons for Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's exasperation with the government, prompting him to resign, is that the government is always short of money and it falls upon him to raise the needed cash. But the principal tax collection agencies, among them the Bureau of Internal Revenue, fail to collect taxes because of negligence, error or something possibly worse. Therefore he, Camacho, is forced to resort to borrowing to pay for the growing budget deficit, therefore mortgaging the future of all Filipinos, including babies not yet born.

For example, the BIR failed to collect almost P138 million in deficiency taxes from a construction company because of a typo error in the address of the corporation.

That amount is now lost for good due to the statute of limitations. Under that law, the BIR must notify the taxpayer, in writing, of the tax assessment within three years after the last day prescribed by law for the filing of the return. After that, the assessment prescribes, meaning the government cannot collect it anymore.

How did this mess come about?

In 1998, the tax liability of the construction company, Dacon Corp., was investigated by the BIR. During the period of investigation, the notices/correspondence of the Assessment Division, numbering 11 in all, were sent by mail to Dacon at its correct address at 1881 President Quirino Avenue Extension in Pandacan, Manila.

However, when the assessment was finalized, with the taxes due from Dacon placed at P137,890,249.44, the Assessment Notice was sent to Dacon by mail at 1181 President Quirino Avenue Extension, Manila, instead of the correct number of 1881. Because of this oversight, or error, Dacon did not receive the assessment within the prescribed period of three years from the time of filing.

This is the justification that Dacon's lawyers used in its defense for not paying the amount due to the government. They pointed out that for the year 1994, Dacon filed its income tax return in 1995, but it allegedly never received any assessment notice. To this date, Dacon has not made any payment.

In a letter to the BIR on Nov. 12, 1998, SGV & Co. said that "the BIR's right to assess Dacon for alleged deficiency income tax and EWT for 1994 has already prescribed."

The letter said Dacon never received any assessment notice in writing. "The BIR's failure to serve the assessment notices to Dacon at its address will not suspend the running of the statute of limitations because it was duly informed of the taxpayer's change of address."

Records show that when the assessment notices were sent to the wrong address, these were returned to the sender, in this case to the BIR. First, why was the proper correction regarding the address not made? Second, for three years, did it never occur to the BIR that Dacon had not acted on the final assessment that the BIR had sent?

Doesn't this require an investigation?

By the way, already under investigation, by both the BIR and the National Bureau of Investigation, is another high-ranking BIR official for having allegedly authorized the transfer of spurious tax credit certificates worth P120 million.

Poor BIR Commisioner Guillermo Parayno, he is working his butt off trying to collect more taxes, but the people under him are giving away tax money.

* * *

Bumped into taipan Lucio Tan during a friend's birthday party last week. Over lunch, Tan told fellow guests that he just came from an important meeting with executives of the Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom).

At that time, PBCom was the object of wild speculations after news reports that four commercial banks have allegedly expressed interest in taking control of the bank. The four banks have since clarified to the Philippine Stock Exchange that they have no such interest in acquiring PBCom.

What struck party guests was Tan's revelation that the Lucio Tan Group of Companies has pledged full support to PBCom's majority shareholders, that his own Allied Bank will honor all valid PBCom checks and other instruments. Members of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also made similar expressions of support.

Asked why he's doing such for PBCom, Tan replied that he's helping because he was concerned that the situation could get out of hand and lead to a domino effect in the whole banking industry. He added that he hopes other businessmen will come to his succor should the same happen to any of his companies.

After he left, some guests commented that Tan seems genuinely concerned over the future of the banking industry. After all, I don't think there are many Filipinos patriotic enough to risk their own money just to help a bank in trouble. Tan could just sit idly by and watch, said one guest, but no, he personally offered a helping hand to PBCom despite the fact that his family just buried his mother.

PBCom's depositors have a lot to thank for. Others are not as lucky. I, for one, became a victim, twice, of troubled banks which shut down. It is a harrowing experience to wake up one day and realize that your hard-earned life's savings is beyond your reach because your bank has declared a bank holiday. The depositors are often the hardest hit by a bank holiday and rarely the bank owners.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Holdup man to victim: "This is a holdup! Give me your money!"

Victim: "You're making a big mistake. I'm a congressman."

Holdup man: "In that case, give me back my money."

Love in the time of SARS

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU kind of miss Lino Brocka. He was the one who opened doors for Filipino directors to crash the world market. His efforts have borne fruit over the years. "Homecoming," Gil Portes' latest offering, is but the latest to reap it. It is released by Columbia Tri-Star and richly deserves it.

None of this is to subtract from Portes' own industry and merit in opening a wider audience for Filipino movies. His "Mga Munting Tinig" drew warm applause in New York and elsewhere for reasons that did not surprise me at all. I was the first to review that movie (I saw it when it was still being digitalized) and I knew it—Portes' smallest and quietest movie—would make the biggest splash. I said so in that review. How much of a splash I myself did not foresee.

UST has published the scripts of that movie and "Homecoming," and it launched the book last Friday night at Cinema 10, Megamall. Portes later showed "Homecoming" to a group of people. I've always liked Portes, as I've said in the past, because he takes risks. Movies like "Markova," "Mga Munting Tinig" and "Homecoming" give back to the words "bold" and "provocative" their original meanings. "Bold" and "provocative" do not properly belong to movies where men and women strut around like Adam and Eve, they belong to movies that go where others—or most others—have not gone before.

"Markova" is about a gay vaudeville performer who becomes *laos*, "Mga Munting Tinig" is about a schoolteacher who gives voice, literally and figuratively, to a village, "Homecoming" is about an OFW who comes home to her village not knowing she has been infected by SARS. None of them is a "commercial" movie, or one that stands to make a killing at the tills—at least not without strenuous help from public and private institutions. "Markova" at least had Dolphy to sell it. The other two do not.

But the last is not a weakness, it is a strong point. "Mga Munting Tinig" and "Homecoming" have pretty much the same ensemble cast, add or subtract a few, and what a fine ensemble cast it is. Portes clearly has found a winning team there. None of them big names, except probably for Alessandra de Rossi, who has found a wider audience, but all of them big actors in the truest sense of the word.

The acting in "Homecoming" is uniformly excellent, but special mention must be made of Elizabeth Oropesa and De Rossi. Someone said before the movie that Oropesa should find herself among the frontrunners when they give out the acting awards. I agree wholeheartedly. Watch out for the scene in particular where her son is talking to the quarantined De Rossi. Her face registers a whole tangle of bottled-up emotions, tears quietly welling up her eyes. And De Rossi, ah this girl is going places, and I don't just mean the top of the heap in this dump. She is precocious. Over the years, she has discovered the power of restraint. She's well ahead of her peers, if not her time, and should be running neck and neck with Oropesa in the glitter nights.

"Homecoming" is not easy to make—movies about afflictions or sick people seldom are. I have to credit Portes again for taking a huge risk. "Homecoming tells of a young woman who comes home from Canada carrying SARS. She infects others, not least her youngest brother, and sparks a national scare. Her village is soon quarantined, and her neighbors, who earlier welcomed her with open arms, swiftly turn against her and her family. All this is very well handled, the script doing a good job exploring the jealousies and animosities that lie beneath the veneer of obsequiousness and ritual paeans to OFWs.

But here's the part that bothers me. A film about SARS is a difficult movie to make because SARS is a difficult issue to tackle. It demands a nuanced approach, one deeply appreciative of its complexity. If an OFW comes home, say, with the reputation of having worked abroad as a prostitute, or even with AIDS, and the community treats her like a leper upon its discovery, a movie can go to town about the village's hypocrisy and backwardness and bad values. And the heroine would be right to say in the end that she would rather be afflicted by her disease, real or imagined, than by the virus of intolerance her neighbors labor from. The first has a cure, the second does not.

SARS is another order of problem altogether. We do know how it was when the SARS scare blew up in our midst earlier this year. Everyone who flew in from Hong Kong was quarantined and avoided by kin and friends. Including friends of mine who attended forums in SARS-ravaged countries, some of whom voluntarily kept their families at arm's length to make sure they would be safe. None of this of course justifies the ostracism and maltreatment of suspected SARS victims, the movie is right to bristle about that. But it removes this from the plane of being a **uniquely** OFW problem: It can happen to anyone—a tourist, an NGO worker, a professional—who has contracted SARS.

There is a scene in "Homecoming" where a villager bribes some cops who are guarding the quarantined village to allow him to slip out to another village to see a girl. Now, if that guy had been infected by SARS, he would have sparked an epidemic. Which raises the question: Which is the real thing to rail about in situations like this, paranoid revulsion or reckless *pakikisama*? Not so easy to answer, but that precisely shows the kinds of complexities we're dealing with. "Homecoming" does not always deal with those complexities deftly.

Still, the movie has more than its share of virtues to merit enthusiastic commendation. It will not assuredly be talked about and debated about. From where I stand, a Filipino director has dared to tackle it, and that has made all the difference.

'Probabilistic decision-making'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Oliváres-Cunanan

THE PHILIPPINE Star bannered yesterday in an exclusive interview by Joanne Rae Ramirez, that movie king Fernando Poe Jr. is all set to declare his candidacy in the 2004 elections. But I really wonder when, since his staunch Senate supporters, such as Sen. Vicente Sotto, seem to be moving the deadlines for FPJ again and again. Last Saturday I cited a banner news report (that appeared in The Manila Times) that "FPJ won't run in 2004" as he was apparently discouraged that he only rated No. 4 in a recent SWS survey which placed Sen. Noli de Castro, former Sen. Raul Roco and President Macapagal-Arroyo above him. SWS president Mahar Mangahas texted me, however, to stress that there is no such SWS survey and that *nakuryente ako* by the Times, though I note that he made no such denial to the Times itself. Taking his text denial as true, however, I note that FPJ still is not rating well in other surveys, and until he finally makes that declaration, all speculations remain as such.

* * *

Yesterday's article in People's Journal by Dennis F Fetalino cited a survey of 300 consumers or the *masa* in Metro Manila at least 18 years of age, conducted from Oct. 21-27 by the New York-based Roper ASW-Asia Pacific, as commissioned by BusinessWorld. This survey is significant as it covers Metro Manila, which has a commanding share of total votes. It placed FPJ at only No. 5 with a 5.7 percent rating, which improved slightly from his 3.5 percent last September. Topping that consumers' survey was GMA with 20 percent, an improvement over her previous 14.9 percent rating, closely followed by Roco with 19.6 percent, a big plunge from his September rating of 34.6 percent; third was Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who fell to 9.8 percent from 10.5 percent, and De Castro, who slid from September's 17 percent to 9.4 percent. Tailender was Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. who fell from a previous 5.1 percent to 4.7 percent.

* * *

The Roper survey also polled businessmen's preference, which was topped by Roco with 25.3 percent, though he fell from 36.3 percent. GMA came in second, moving up from 13.7 percent to 15.7 percent, followed by Lacson, who improved from 7.7 percent in September to 13.7 percent, and Cojuangco, who garnered 5.3 percent, a tiny gain from his previous 4 percent. The *kulelat* as far as the businessmen were concerned were FPJ at 2.7 percent and De Castro, who plunged from 10.3 percent to 1.7 percent. The improvement of Lacson among the businessmen reflects the reading of Pulse Asia's director, Prof. Felipe Miranda, who said he is performing better among the A and B crowd than with the *masa*, doubtless due to the persistent peace and order problems.

While the administration is beset by all sorts of problems, the Roper ASW survey should give her a boost, as it showed 52 percent of Metro Manilans, usually the most critical of the Pinoy voters, think she's doing a good job, while almost half believe in her sincerity (not yet factored in are the repercussions to the Palace of the Davide impeachment). The Journal also significantly noted that consumer confidence was rising as business confidence was slipping, but it would be curious to note how the recent resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho would affect business confidence.

* * *

Abroad I read a write-up about the memoirs of former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in the Clinton administration, titled "In an Uncertain World." It spoke of all the risks that Rubin and the Clinton administration took in managing its fiscal health as well as that of the world. One of them involved what Rubin termed the "first crisis of the 21st century,"—the prospect of Mexico's default and a meltdown of its economy, which would have **had disastrous consequences not just for the United States but also the world. Rubin was quoted as saying that "Mexico is a good example of a situation in which all decisions had the potential for serious adverse consequences, and the key was to find the least bad option." Rubin's guiding principle, said to have been drawn from a philosophy course at Harvard University, stated that "nothing is probably certain" and that "in an uncertain world, the best way to conduct your affairs is through probabilistic decision-making."**

* * *

That phrase, "probabilistic decision-making," struck me as I read various criticisms of the crucial decision of government authorities at the Naia II to use force to subjugate the late Col. Panfilo Villaruel and his aide, who hours earlier had taken over the control tower by force of arms. Much of life is "probabilistic" decision-making, as GMA did two months ago in throwing her hat into the ring again, or as FPJ seems about to do upon the endless prodding of Sen. Edgardo Angara (who cannot countenance Lacson as his presidential candidate). "Probabilistic decision-making" was doubtless in the mind of Speaker Jose de Venecia when he decided to uphold the Supreme Court ruling on Hilario Davide Jr., not knowing whether it would lead to his ouster. The airport authorities upheld this principle in their belief that bigger damage to the national interest would ensue had they tarried longer in dealing with the takeover incident.

* * *

Calling on all survivors of the Cancer Institute of the UP Padre Faura campus from 1945 to 1948, and all pioneers of the UP Diliman campus, when it moved from Manila to Diliman in January 1949. There will be a thanksgiving (*kanya-kanyang bayad*) lunch at the UP Bahay Alumni, Diliman campus, this Thursday, Nov. 27, starting at 10:30 a.m., where everyone is invited to reminisce with the group and share "your experience and exploits." For more details, contact Raul Consunji, 563-9268; Danding Taylor, 426-3346; Ted Abueva, 659-5075; Tessie Villegas-Daza, 921-2674 and Fely Zafra Reyes, 928-9203.

We shoot dreamers, don't we?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

IT was a time pregnant with expectation, a pervading sense of dread, a nagging fear of some impending event that was all the more foreboding because it was, up to the time, uncertain; spread only by rumors, although long predicted by the more discerning.

It was a few weeks before martial law was proclaimed by Ferdinand Marcos.

By then, Victor Corpus had raided the armory of the Philippine Military Academy and defected, and Sulu's lone candidate in the PMA, Ahlul Anni, had gone missing from the cadet contingent during the June 12 Independence Day celebration.

And there I was in downtown Baguio, haggling with a taxi driver over the fare to the academy where I was going to fulfill a promise to visit some cadets who had been our guests in Jolo that past summer.

Then, a man approached us, extricating a stick from a pack of cigarettes he had just bought from a sidewalk vendor, from where I presumed he had overheard my bargaining bout and without any preliminaries, simply offered me a ride because, he told me, he was bound for the PMA himself, to visit his son.

"Hop in," he said, and I did without hesitation because those were the days when you didn't suspect this to be a pickup. What followed was probably the next harrowing scene to a roller-coaster ride, but I had no regrets because he turned out to be one of the most interesting people I have talked with.

He was himself a PMAyer, a retired army colonel, and had earned his MS in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also disclosed he was an inventor, saying the word with the fingers of one hand drawing quotation marks in the air, rather self-deprecatingly.

But why did he sound unhappy over being an inventor?

"You would too, if none of your writings ever got published," he replied.

He said he had filed several applications with the patent office for his many inventions and improvisations, but he had yet to receive a single approval.

But worse than that was the bitter experience of a colleague, a chemical engineer, whose formulation of a certain product, with patent pending, soon realized that what he thought was exclusively his intellectual property was already being marketed.

"That office is really a graveyard for dreamers," he said, adding, "in fact this country kills dreamers."

Beginning even in the home, he said, the dreamer, the one who thinks differently, who "envisions wild things," is often ignored by parents and ridiculed by siblings. In school, both teachers and classmates conspire to alienate him with some form of rejection, ranging from suspicions that he is gay, to extreme manifestation like ostracism.

The Filipinos as a race can measure up to international standard in terms genius and creativity, but like prophets they are never appreciated in their own country, he lamented.

He cited the designer of the lunar module, and the formulator of Quink as among those who saw their dreams realized in another country.

When we arrived at the PMA, his son, a splitting image of his father, welcomed us, but before I could say goodbye to them, the colonel came near me and shared a secret: this jeep that brought us here was running on alcohol and water.

I never met him again, never got to know how our roller-coaster ride was powered by water, or whether any of his inventions had been awarded a patent.

But it was to him and our conversation that my thought turned when President Macapagal-Arroyo announced with a triumphant smile beneath the Hilterish side-bang (who ever designed that hairdo should be made to spend Christmas in a concentration camp), that Capt. Panfilo Villaruel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar who earlier had taken over the air traffic control tower at the Naia, had been "neutralized," a word, by the way, that fascinates me, in much the same way as "salvaged" did when it came into usage in its peculiar meaning in the 1970s.

I don't know what drove Villaruel to do what he did, nor why half his face was blown off for it. Did he have other dreams aside from the science wooden plane and humming helicopters?

Were they too, ignored, ridiculed and aborted? Did he know something we don't?

Now, as then, it is a time pregnant with expectation, a pervading sense of dread, a nagging fear of some impending event that is all the more foreboding because it is uncertain, spread only by rumors, although seen with crystal clarity by the more discerning.

There is this persistent unease of being part of a pastiche that is almost surreal.

What appears, or is made to appear, as reality, is actually made up of ill-designed scenarios and bad scripts.

Thereto is this sense of being taken on a roller-coaster ride powered by nothing but air, leading nowhere.

So much quid pro quo, back-chanelling, bargaining bouts that we don't overhear, and all these legitimized by an empty invitation to reconciliation. Hop in.

But we hesitate, because this is definitely a pickup and this constant calling on divine intervention only worsens our anxieties because it becomes clear as day that we are truly clutching at the last straws.

We too have our dreams. Very simple dreams that do not require genius and creativity. Dreams of statesmanship in our leaders, not brinkmanship and constant bickering. Economic growth that we see in our paychecks and on our tables and not just hear in the pronouncements of government.

But then, we shoot dreamers, don't we?

* * *

Comments to nm19@mysmart.com.ph

Judicial activism and the one-third rule

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IMPEACHMENT is teaching us the Philippine Constitution. In fine, it is a mere compendium of tightly written English compositions, built upon certain Anglo-American texts and traditions, and said to be improved upon by the 1987 Constitutional Commission. Every Filipino ought to know the Law, and not fear it as some kind of special and arcane knowledge reserved for attorneys, judges and deans of colleges. The recent constitutional crisis over the Davide impeachment urges us all to learn it, and not just "to defer to our betters," as Pilosopong Tacio once chided his foolish countrymen, in that mythic scene with Crisostomo Ibarra, long ago.

Even landmark Supreme Court rulings can and should be read by every intelligent Filipino, so they may be judged fairly by untrammeled conscience and grow there on fertile soil, or die in frank disdain. Every just decision should win a willing agreement in the minds of just men that it is indeed wise and reasonable. Great decisions inspire in the hearts of whole generations, commitment to uphold and defend what new direction or principle the ruling stands for.

The jury is still out on Francisco Jr. case. Since its promulgation, a sudden silence has replaced the "cacophonous debate thereon"—as the ruling says of the political crisis of conscience. But that's deceptive. Most people have not even read the decision because getting a copy is not so easy. At the website listed below, students of the law and other interested parties are invited to get all the key documents of the case and join the rising fora of popular review that can only end in affirmation or rebuke for the landmark ruling.

Francisco Jr. vs House of Representatives confirms the ideological course of judicial activism by the Davide Court that is also self-evident in Estrada vs Arroyo. In less than three years, the weakest branch of government has already overthrown one democratically elected executive and overruled the legislature on its own rules, throwing regularity and predictability in democratic governance to the winds. But the roots of that judicial activism go back farther than Edsa II. Back to the foundry of the 1987 charter and its various strange mutations in democratic theory. Like that ticking brain tumor, waiting for renewed political aneurysm—the one-third rule on impeachment. The bullet just dodged comes from a still-loaded gun, whose one-time designer suddenly became its target.

But the greatest philosophical energies of our "forefathers" and still-living framers of the 1987 Constitution (Davide, Maambong, Regalado, Bernas, etc.) were invested in the following establishment clause of rule by judicial review in Article VIII Section 1:

"The judicial power shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such lower courts as may be established by law. Judicial power includes the duty of the courts of justice to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government."

There is a clear conflict of interest on the part of the 14 justices that gave birth to the Francisco Jr., especially the co-accused in the first impeachment complaint. But I also believe, that it is an unwise ruling on the merits, because they should have let a lower court, the Senate impeachment court, handle the brouhaha of the Brat Pack. Instead, the baby of judicial restraint was thrown out with the bathwater of the Davide impeachment, because everyone pushed the panic button.

A second objection on the merits, is that nowhere do the words "sole" or "exclusive" appear above. The general duties and powers claimed by the Court are shared by all coordinate branches of government. Surely, it is the duty of all in government to discern and abjure grave abuses of discretion, not just the judiciary's. I am not persuaded that the framers can speak with special authority on what the Constitution ought to mean. It is after all, an abstract body of ends for the people's ultimate good, not a book of historical recipes.

The ConCom cannot claim any original authorship anyway except for identifiable mutations to preternatural axioms like rule of the majority. There is a deep and disturbing philosophical connection between that insane one-third rule and the elitist roots of judicial activism in the above provision.

Our forefathers of good intentions built into the charter ways of ensuring that another Marcos would not arise, like the one-third rule, or could at least be easily removed—without relying on the inconvenient methods of popular democracy. By vocation and admission, many of them are wedded to the tender mercies of theocracy and comforting authority of Biblical dogma. Nothing wrong with that. But they chose to activate the judiciary as guardian judges of the government, the referees joining the game. Francisco Jr. demonstrates the awesome power of that heretical version of judicial review, Philippine-style, which claims the exercise of its powers to "settle actual controversies involving rights" is also its sacred duty.

If we took that claim seriously with the judiciary's legendary record of tens of thousands of backlogged graft and corruption cases in the Sandiganbayan alone, plus Joseph Estrada, we might want to reach for that one-third rule again. *(Join the conversation at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/).*

Unpleasant photo

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ACTION photos, or those that show the dynamics of human behavior, are most sought after by newspapers and television stations. It takes a combination of perfect timing (or being at the right place at the precise time), quick finger reflex and a good camera to capture in film scenes that tug at the heart.

The Nov. 13 issue of the INQUIRER showed the picture of a group of demonstrators being dispersed the day before by anti-riot police carrying thick shields and heavy truncheons. In the background were three imposing buildings at Ayala Avenue, Makati City, the country's main financial and business district.

The color photo occupied almost one-third of the front page. Below it was written in big, bold letters the banner headline, "Rampage in Ayala." The caption read: Suddenly, the Central Business District turns into a battleground as anti-riot police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse alleged pro-Estrada protesters.

The mass action was held to demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. The anti-administration rally was in reaction to the earlier decision of the Supreme Court declaring unconstitutional the second impeachment complaint filed against Davide by some congressmen.

A reader, Jose Martinez, took the INQUIRER to task for using that photo. He felt its publication was uncalled for considering that "no stores were looted, no one was killed or seriously hurt, and the protesters did not offer any resistance when they were shooed away by the police."

He criticized the newspaper for adding fuel to the already tense political situation in the country brought about by the polarization of the citizens and the coming May 2004 elections. In his opinion, the picture was meant to boost the political stock of one of the presidential candidates.

Newsworthy

The editor in chief cited several reasons for giving that photo and its accompanying news the complained premium treatment. She said it was the first time in so many years that the police had to use water cannons and tear gas to disperse a rally held at the center of the country's financial power.

The number of people, estimated at 10,000 to 20,000, who participated in the demonstration was unexpected. Similar actions in the past by organizations identified with former President Estrada hardly mustered more than 2,000 warm bodies. And they disbanded peacefully as soon as they reached the time limit stated in their permits. The fact that no stores were looted or lives lost does not mean that the rally had scant news value.

Besides, the editor in chief was impressed by the human dynamics shown in the photo. Against a backdrop of wealth and elegance, the country's poor and underprivileged citizens were on a virtual eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the forces that the government sent to stop the further ventilation of their grievances after their time had lapsed.

She strongly denied the reader's accusation that the photo was published to help the presidential aspirations of one of the self-declared candidates for the May 2004 polls. If it all, any "assistance" that the picture may have given to that candidate was purely coincidental and did not cross her mind when she chose it for that day's issue.

Concurrence

Before I take up the reader's complaint, I'd like to clear up some things first.

Although the reader mentioned the name of the presidential candidate who he thinks gained from the publication of the photo in question, I purposely omitted it because I think it would give that aspirant publicity mileage ahead of the campaign period allowed by our election laws.

The INQUIRER is already wise to the practice of the PR personnel of some candidates of sending letters to the editor or complaints that appear to discuss certain issues or express concern about the presentation of the news, but are in reality aimed at making some candidates look good or bad before the readers.

Going back to the "Rampage in Ayala" picture, I felt bad when I first saw it. Coming on the heels of the decision of the House of Representatives to accept the Supreme Court's decision on the second impeachment complaint against Davide, I thought the photo had the effect of re-opening political wounds that were already starting to heal.

To aggravate matters, the dispersal happened at the "Wall Street" of the Philippines and was bound to catch the attention of the international media. True enough, film cuts of the incident were shown at CNN and other reputable foreign television news programs.

After hearing the editor in chief's explanation of her decision to publish the photo in question, I realized she cannot be faulted for doing so. The mass action that turned violent last Nov. 12 had strong news value. Contrary to reports, it looks like the former president, despite his two-year detention, is still a force to reckon with in the political scene. He still has a big corps of supporters who are willing to take to the streets to make life miserable for the people who they think unfairly removed him from Malacañang.

Whether they did it for the money or out of a sincere belief that it is in the country's best interests for President Macapagal and Davide to resign from their posts is immaterial. If indeed they joined the demonstration in consideration of P200 without meals or snacks, there is reason to be worried. The Times must be really hard for them to willingly risk life and limb for that small sum of money.

The Nov. 12 rally that temporarily disturbed the tranquility of the country's premier financial district was a story that had to be written in the most graphic way possible. The public has the right to know that the political undercurrent in our society is stronger than most of us think or have been led to believe.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Intellectually deficient

"(Fernando) Poe is popular, but if the people can have a glimpse of his intellectual capacity, then maybe they will change their minds about voting him to the highest office."

—League of Municipalities of the Philippines Mayor Ramon Guico

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Yadao clarifies some points in Monsod's column

PLEASE allow me to clarify certain points raised by Solita Monsod in her column last Nov. 15.

1. Monsod said that the speed with which I disposed of the Kuratong Baleleng case was "breathtaking." For her information, under the rules of criminal procedure, a judge has only 10 days from the time a case is raffled to his sala to determine the existence of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest. The cases were raffled to my sala on Oct. 19, 2003 and therefore I had only up to Oct. 19, 2003 to determine whether arrest warrants would be issued or not. I disposed of the cases on Nov. 12, 2003 or more than a month after they were raffled to my sala. The 10-day period was interrupted by the filing of motions by both the prosecution and the defense which had to be set for hearing. Breathtaking? Certainly not.

2. It is true that dismissing a case for lack of probable cause for the issuance of warrant of arrest is a "rare and exceptional occurrence." But this is permitted by jurisprudence pursuant to the Supreme Court decisions in Allado vs Diokno (232 SCRA 192) and People vs Court of Appeals et al. (GR No. 126005, Jan. 21, 1999) cited in my order of dismissal.

3. Monsod impugns the "quality" of my "reasoning" because I had allegedly ignored the findings of the three Senate committees that investigated the Kuratong Baleleng killings to the effect that the victims were shot while handcuffed and that therefore they were murdered. The trouble is that the prosecution never presented the Senate findings to the court. In their preliminary investigation, the Department of Justice panel of prosecutors relied on the affidavits of four "new" witnesses which the court found perjured or unworthy of belief and therefore not sufficient to support a finding of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

4. Monsod compared the time it took me to resolve the petition for bail in the Valerio case with my dismissal of the Kuratong Baleleng case. The Valerio case is entirely different from the Kuratong Baleleng case. As mentioned by Monsod, it was another judge who caused the issuance of warrant of arrest but only against accused Antonio Cabador and Mila Valerio. The three other accused were already under detention, after which the case was re-raffled to my sala for trial. A petition for bail is not a summary proceeding because the prosecution must be given the opportunity to prove that the evidence of guilt is strong. Thus, comparing the determination of probable cause with a petition for bail is like comparing apples with oranges.

Finally, Monsod suggests that my actions in the two cases were influenced by the presence of lawyer Sigfrid Fortun as private prosecutor in the Valerio case and as defense counsel in the Kuratong Baleleng case. This is of course pure speculation as the appearance of Fortun in both cases is entirely beyond my control.

—MA. THERESA L. DELA TORRE-YADAO,
presiding judge,
Regional Trial Court,
Branch 81, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Paid advertisement protested

I PROTEST, in the strongest and most vehement terms possible, the publication of a paid advertisement (PDI, 11/2/03) maliciously identifying me as having hired "armed mercenaries" in Hacienda Esperanza, Barangay Nagasi, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental to "forcibly" bar Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) "from attending to their farm lots, resulting in the death of Diony Gaylan and the wounding of several ARBs, including some women, on March 6, 2003."

The said ad demanded to "revoke the dubious non-land transfer schemes" but, in making such a political statement, the signatories unduly maligned my name and besmirched my reputation with false claims.

The March 6 incident is already the subject of a criminal charge and countercharge pending as IS No. 2003-83 in the Office of the Prosecutor of La Carlota City.

Strangely, in both the original complaint and supplemental complaint filed by the NGO, no mention is made in the complaints of any "goon" or "hired mercenary" as having been involved in the incident. In fact, records of the ensuing investigation show it was precipitated by a heavy liquor-drinking session involving several members of the complainant NGO.

It is likewise untrue that "Gaylan and other ARBs" are all holders of a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) because the latest standing order of the Department of Agrarian Reform issued on Dec. 20, 2002, in respect to Administrative Cases Nos. A-0600-0333-2002 and A-0600-0336-2002, directed the cancellation of such CLOAs issued over the subject hacienda.

A retraction of the false and malicious statements by the signatories to the paid advertisement I am referring to is certainly in order. Otherwise, I shall be constrained to sue for libel any and all parties liable under the law.

—KITCHIE BENEDICTO-PAULINO,
Hacienda Esperanza,
La Carlota City, Negros Occidental

Memories of Joe Burgos

I FIRST met Joe Burgos Jr. in 1965 when I joined dzMT, the radio station of the Manila Times, as news writer. Joe was one of my sources of news for the hourly newscast.

Joe was already a star police reporter of the Times-Mirror-Taliba newspaper chain and was a *niño bonito* of publishing legend and freedom fighter, Don Joaquin "Chino" Roces. But Joe never allowed his celebrity status to get to his head. He remained a friend to everyone. He would tip me on some story in his beat, thus allowing me to occasionally scoop my friend, Press Secretary Milt Alingod, who worked for our competitor, dzHP.

In 1969, Joe organized a mass media team composed of reporters from all the newspapers, radio and TV outfits, to cover the elections in Ilocos Sur.

I was among those invited by Joe to join. Also among the group were Joe's younger brother, Bobby, Tony Antonio (now president of the National Press Club), Alex Allan, Sid Roman, Omy Pinga and Totoy Hernandez.

Vigan, Ilocos Sur lived up to its pre-election billing as the country's top election hotspot. Casualties were reported as Luis Chavit Singson prepared to contest the congressional seat of his maternal uncle, Rep. Floro Crisologo.

Highlight of our coverage was the confrontation between Singson, on one side, and the late Floro Crisologo and his son, Bingbong, on the other. Both sides had a virtual army of bodyguards. The confrontation almost ended in a bloody shootout on a lonely highway on the outskirts of Vigan.

The photograph of the incident was taken by Hernandez of the Graphic and eventually became the Photo of the Year for 1969. The TV coverage of the incident was made by Pinga of Channel 5. A pooled story of the incident carried the byline of The Mass Media Team.

Max Soliven, in his column By the Way, paid a glowing tribute to the gallantry and courage of the Mass Media Team for its reportage of the reign of terror in Ilocos Sur, which became one of the top events of the year.

The story created such a furor in Manila that then President Ferdinand Marcos, accompanied by his aides Jake Clave and Kit Tatad, flew into Vigan the following day to try to put the situation under control.

Soon after that, I temporarily left media to seek a less risky vocation.

When martial law was declared, most publications, including radio and TV stations, were closed down.

But my friend Joe, a descendant of the martyr Fr. Jose Burgos, continued his lonely fight against the dictatorship. The rest is history.

—IGNACIO R. BUNYE
presidential spokesperson,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

Old-age pension of vet's widow

THIS refers to the claim for old-age pension of my mother, Felisa D. Blando, OW-F01-97-003216 filed in 1997.

My late father, Marciano M. Blando, was a World War II veteran. I submitted all documents required by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office six years ago. We have traveled to the PVAO countless times to submit documents and follow-ups, but the personnel whom we have talked to always told my mother to just wait for her pension to be mailed to her.

Up to now she has not received anything. She is already 83 years old and she can't travel to Manila anymore.

Please help us.

—ZOSIMA BLANDO-DIZON,
Caupasan, Danglas, Abra

Premium on finger-pointing

WE have read the letter of Jack Lim referring to the construction work along Pasong Tamo Street. (PDI, 11/8/03)

Please be informed that the construction along the stretch of Pasong Tamo is a project of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority-Metro Manila Urban Road Transport Integration Project (MMDA-MMURTRIP). We have been coordinating with their office (MMDA-MMURTRIP) regarding all problems and complaints we receive from the public for immediate action.

Please be guided accordingly.

—NELSON B. MORALES,
city engineer, Makati City

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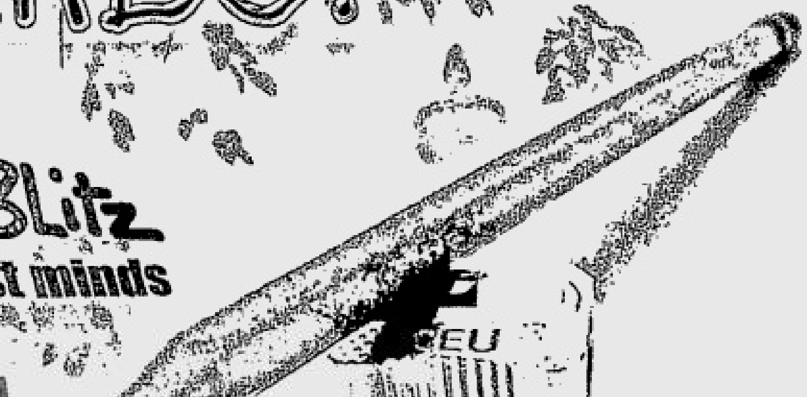

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Members and coaches of the Champion Team, Manila Science High School pose with CEU officials as they receive their check of Php 80,000 and one-year CEU scholarship grant. L-R CEU Senior Vice President Carmelita E. la O', the Manila Science High School Team, CEU President Rosita L. Navarro, and CEU Vice President for Finance and Investor Relations Patricia B. Echauz.

1st Runner-Up
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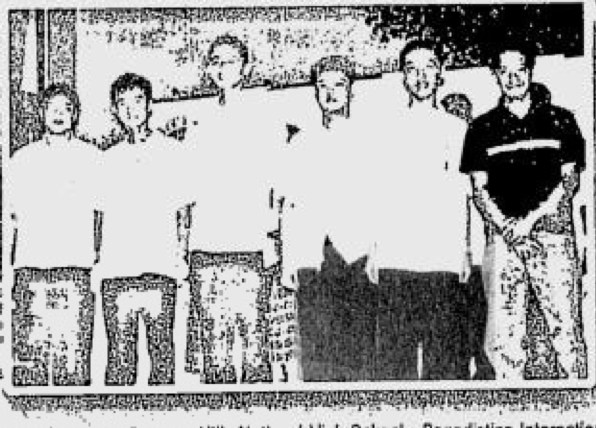

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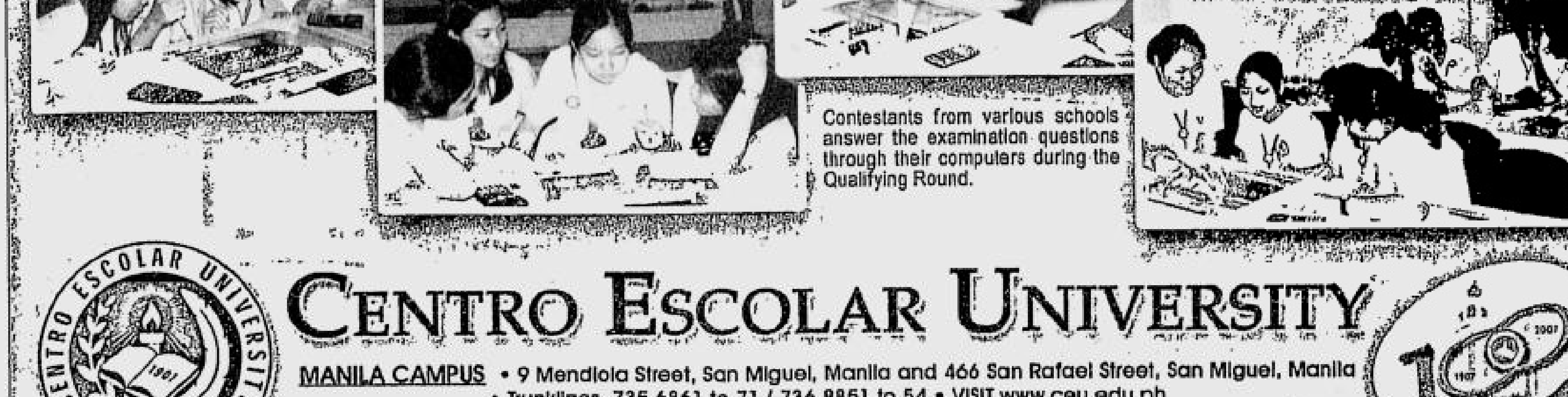

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Angara slams nickel mining firm

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan risks irreversible destruction if local officials continue to allow the operation of the Hydrometallurgical Processing Plant (HPP) of the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC) in Bataraza, Palawan, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara.

The company is owned by Manuel Zamora, brother of San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

Angara attended the meeting on Friday of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a quasi-judicial body in charge of the implementation of environmental policies in Palawan.

He introduced a resolution directing the Senate committee on environment and natural resources to conduct an inquiry on the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) to RTNMC for the construction of the HPP.

He called RTNMC's $150 million facility as an ecological time bomb because of the danger it poses to the community and Palawan's environment.

Angara said the ECC granted in 1997 should not have been issued in the first place. "Everything about the project is wrong," he said.

There are several uncalculated risks in the storage, delivery and use of sulfuric acid and other toxic chemical substances, he added.

Quarrying in Sitio Gotok in Barangay Iwahig will wipe out old-growth forests, and endangered plants and animals, he said.

Non-government groups also said there were some loopholes in the issuance of the ECC and that the company violated the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra).

Environmental lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda said NGOs in Palawan believe that in addition to the technical deficiencies identified by the technical staff of PCSD, there are critical ecological, legal and policy considerations that impede the issuance of an ECC.

Dr. Rolando Cuano, environmental impact assessment team leader of Gaia South, a consultancy firm hired by RTNMC, said there is no irreversible damage.

RTNMC officials said they followed all the steps in getting an ECC.

GRAND SALAD FESTIVAL About 10,000 persons partook of several bowls of salad during the grand salad festival Friday in Benguet province. TOOTS SOBERANO

More brownouts seen in Cebu, says Napocor

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Energy supply in Cebu, Panay and Negros islands has been declared "critical" after the shutting down of one of the three plants comprising the Palinpinon 1 Geothermal Power Plant (Pal 1) in Valencia town some 11 km west of this city.

Rodolfo Pacana, manager of Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant of the National Power Corp. (Napocor), said the unit of Pal 1 in Barangay Puhagan, Valencia was shut down last July because the generator rotor of the 20-year-old unit had bogged down.

The damaged rotor would have to be sent to Japan by the end of December for repair, said Pacana. Under this schedule, the repaired rotor would not be available until March next year, he added.

With the shutting down of one of the units of Pal 1, the two geothermal power plants in Valencia could only supply some 155 MW to Negros, Panay and Cebu, which had been joined under one grid.

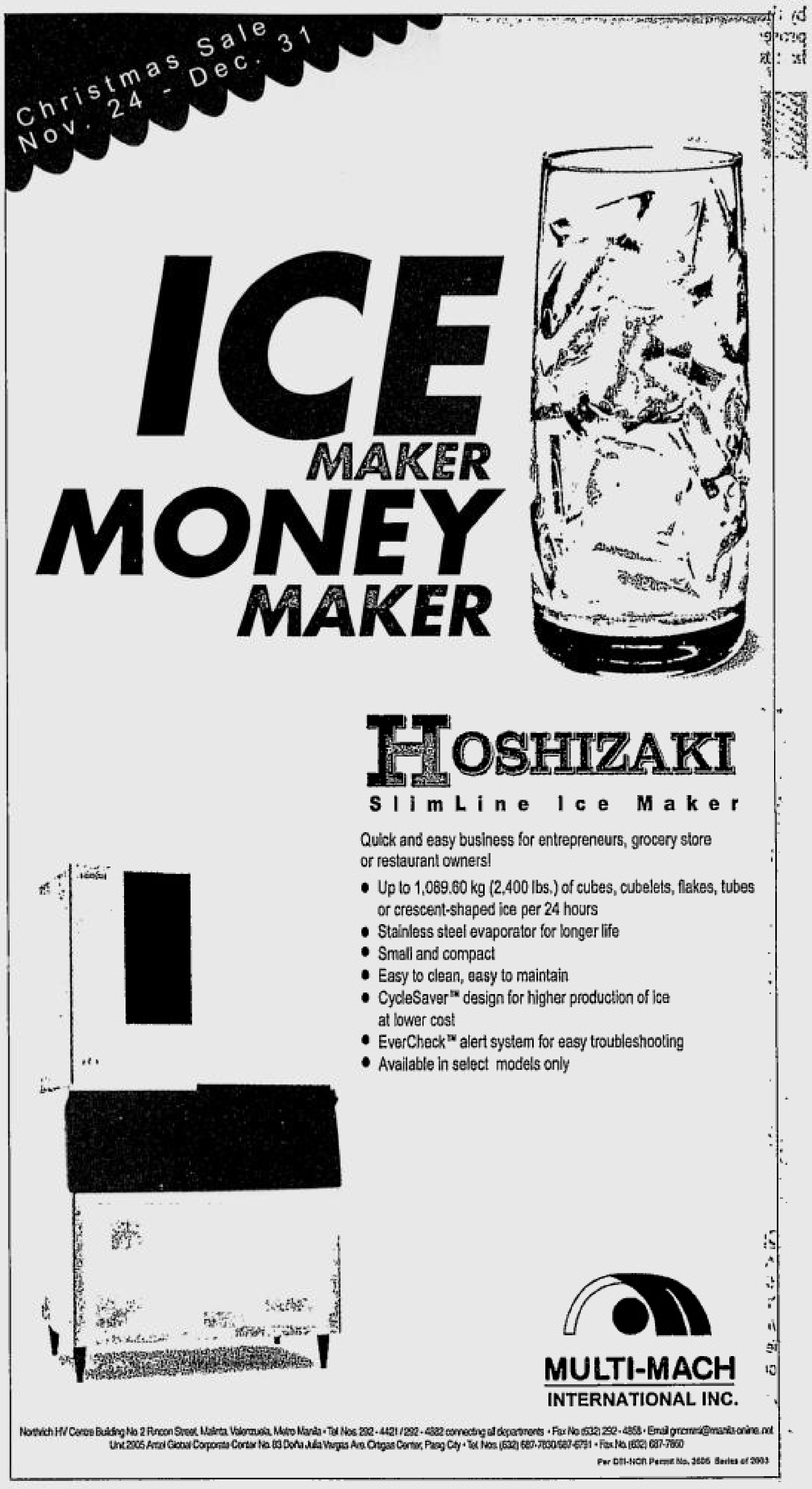
"We are expecting a capacity supply problem because the maximum demand for power now in Cebu, Panay and Negros is 170 MW," Pacana said.

"This is critical because we have no reserve," he added.

The power situation in the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid would improve with the reactivation of the 50-MW power plant in Naga, Cebu on Dec. 1, Napocor officials in Cebu said.

But until the preventive maintenance of the plant has been completed, daily brownouts of at least one hour will be expected in Metro Cebu, the Napocor said.

The newly repaired 45-MW power plant of Salcon Power Corp., an independent power producer, bogged down on Friday, compounding the already critical power supply and causing rotated power outages in Metro Cebu lasting up to three hours. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Wilfredo Rodolfo III, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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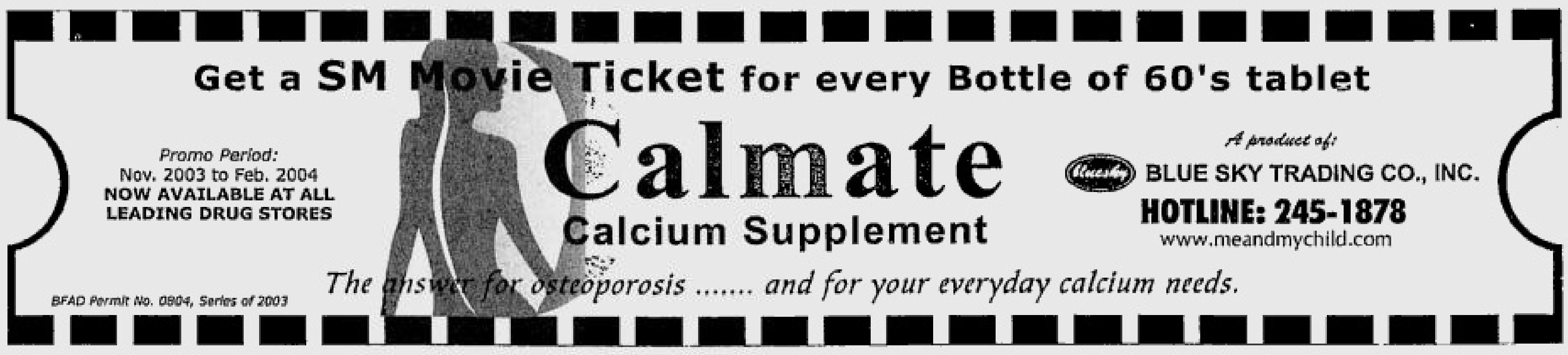

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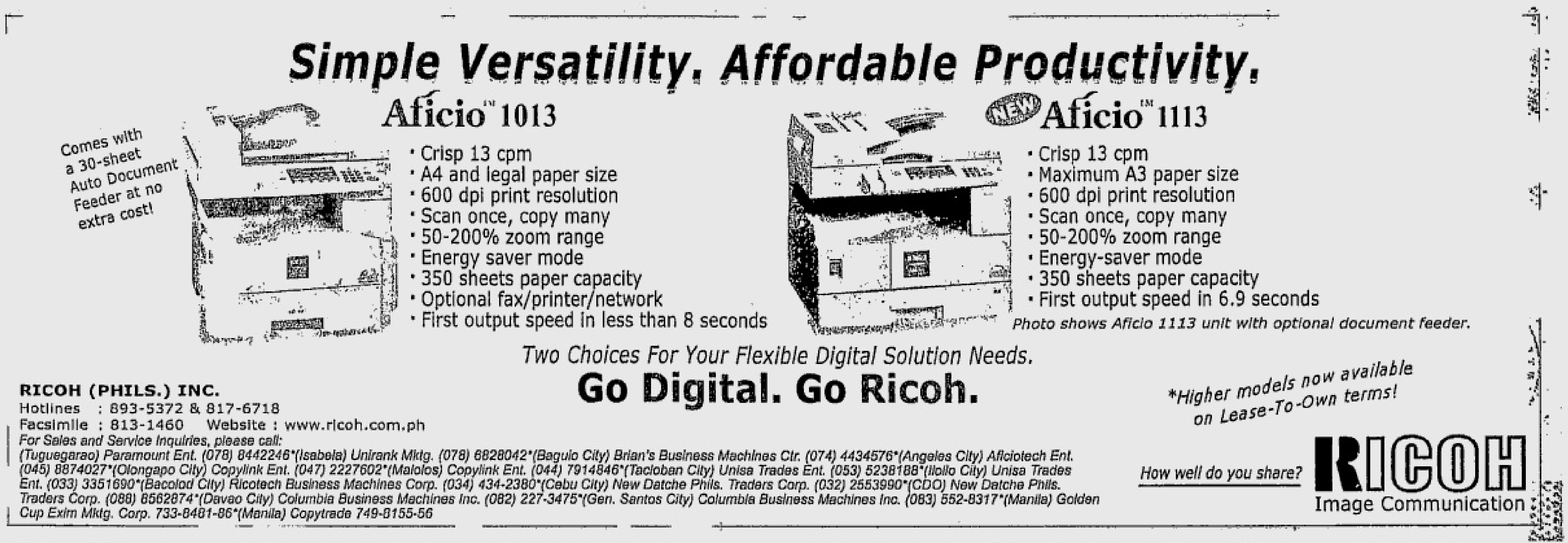

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Vizcaya governor warns PNP: Stop 'jueteng' now

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani warned police officials on Thursday to immediately stop jueteng operations in the province.

"I am directing the chiefs of police to stop (the operation of) jueteng in their areas now. Otherwise, I may be compelled to make drastic actions they may regret if this is not stopped," he told reporters.

Agbayani hinted that the revival of jueteng in the province had been caused by influential persons, who pressured the police to turn a blind eye on its return, especially in the towns of Bayombong, Solano, Bambang and Bagabag.

"If people come to you asking you to allow this jueteng resurgence, then tell me who they are and I will deal with them," he told police officials.

"If they are irresistible to you because they are not within your level, then perhaps, I can deal with them. If they are not at my level, then I will talk to someone more superior than them," he said. He did not elaborate.

But Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, provincial police director, said before he went on leave last week, he had ordered all chiefs of police to conduct continuous operations following reports that bet collectors were again active in some towns.

"I have even instructed them to seek the help of barangay officials to put a stop to this illegal gambling," said Manubay, who has been on a leave of absence since last week.

Agbayani said he had consulted with leaders of public and private sectors and they expressed dismay over the failure of the local police to stop the jueteng operations, despite the assurance of their top officers.

"I have requested (Interior) Secretary Jose Lina Jr. to send a police team to the province to carry out an intensive campaign against this guerrilla-type jueteng operations here," he said.

The governor, however, downplayed reports that jueteng operations had resumed here as gambling lords took advantage of the absence of Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena, a staunch crusader against the illegal numbers game.

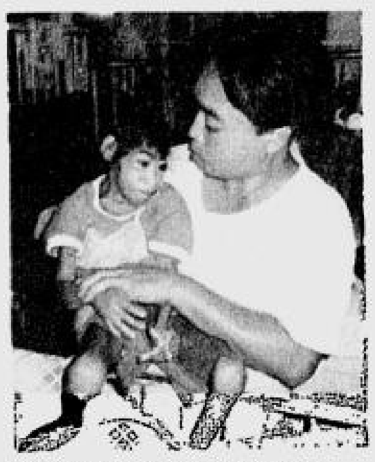
The bishop is in the Vatican on an official visit.

In an earlier interview, Agbayani said he directed police officials to present to him the alleged gambling lord (Alex Mauricio), who was supposedly financing jueteng operations in the province.

"The police have positively identified this guy, but I am surprised why up to now they have not brought him to me," Agbayani said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Malnourished girl needs help for eye operation

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau



MICAH, 8, is held by neighbor Virgie Fajardo at the hospital where she is being treated for eye infection. JESSAR DURA

BACOLOD CITY—Micah Urbanoso is eight years old but she does not look it. Only three feet tall, the girl is severely malnourished and weighed barely eight kilos.

Micah, third of four children of impoverished sugar plantation workers, badly needs help for a surgery that would prevent her from going blind.

The child suffers from Keratoconjunctivitis, an infection of the eye that has ruptured her cornea, according to Dr. Miguelito Aquino, her attending physician.

Micah, who is confined at the pediatric ward of the government-run Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital here, urgently needs operation on her right eye to prevent her from going blind, he said.

Micah also needs help to address her malnutrition problem.

Micah, however, also has another deformity that has been causing her and her family heartache. Micah's physical features, particularly her face, resemble that of a primate.

Micah, who was born on Dec. 18, 1995, is the daughter of Editha, 33, and Bonifacio, 39, a sugarcane worker of Bantayan, Kabankalan City, some 92 kilometers south of here.

She has been weak since birth but had not been ill until Nov. 14 when her parents were forced to bring her to the Kabankalan District Hospital due to severe diarrhea. She was transferred to the CLMMRH on Nov. 21, her mother said.

Editha said she did not know why Micah was born the way she did.

Dr. Aquino, however, said Micah looks like a primate because she is suffering from microcephaly, where the head's circumference is smaller than usual.

"This could have been caused by a viral infection her mother may have suffered while she was pregnant," he said.

"What Micah has is a form of retardation that causes her to move like a primate," he said.

Micah is unable to talk and only grunts to attract one's attention. Her tongue is short, her mother explained.

Micah is, however, not the only child of Editha who has primate-like features.

Micah's older brother, Michael, 13, looks the same and even moves like a primate.

Michael, his mother said, attempted to study at a barangay school in Kabankalan but he lasted in school only for a week because he could not stand the pressures of studying and being mocked by his schoolmates.

Right now, however, Editha said they were more concerned over Micah who is skin-and-bones and weighed only 7.4 kilos. She has become very weak because of dehydration caused by severe diarrhea.

Micah developed the eye infection because she constantly rubs her eyes with her soiled hands. She is being treated with Ampicillin and Tabramycin drops but the other medicines prescribed for her have not yet been bought by her parents for lack of money.

Editha said she and her husband have been trying very hard to keep Micah on medication but are so poor they have no means to ensure that Micah will have adequate care.

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Fisherman's son dies saving boat passengers

Traders upbeat about tourism

DAVAO CITY—The city's tourism sector is upbeat about better times as visitor confidence has apparently returned.

The tourism industry here saw a big slump following the two bombings that killed more than 40 people last year and as a result of a fallout of the government's military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But Arturo Boncato Jr., marketing manager of the Marco Polo Hotel, cited the high occupancy rates in the hotels as proof of increasing visitors' confidence.

For Marco Polo alone, the average occupancy rate is about 70 percent while other hotels are "not very far from that," he said.

"You can glean from it already (that) we are looking at better times and brisk business brought about by increased confidence," Boncato said.

The increase in occupancy rates was attributed mainly to the big number of domestic tourists arriving.

But there was also a notable increase in the number of foreign visitors.

"We expect 2004 to be much better for us," Boncato said.

The forthcoming opening of the Davao International Airport will become an integral part of the success of the local tourism industry, he said. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Suspected rebel slain

SAN EMILIO, Ilocos Sur—A suspected member of the New People's Army was killed in an encounter with government troops in the upland village of Sibsibbu here on Wednesday. Military reports did not identify the rebel, whose body was taken to the Joces Funeral Homes in Candon City. The fatality allegedly belonged to a group of 14 NPA rebels who engaged members of the Army's 503rd Infantry Brigade in a 15-minute battle. Reports said the rebels were led by one Ka Dap-ay, whose unit operates in eastern Ilocos Sur and western Abra.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Acquitted of rape

BAGUIO CITY—A judge acquitted a carpenter of the charge of raping a girl two years ago. Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court ordered on Nov. 5 the release of Florante Tagaca after he found the girl's claim to be lacking in credibility. Ayson said the girl, who has a live-in partner with children, claimed she was raped on Nov. 28, 2001 and Jan. 2, 2002, but she reported it nine months after the incident. The court also suspected that the case was meant to cover the victim's alleged illicit affair.

Rod Bansag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana uprooted

CABANATUAN CITY—Police found more than 6,000 young marijuana plants in a mountainous area in Barangay General Luna in Carranglan town on Wednesday. Supt. Antonio de Luna, chief of the 308th Provincial Police Mobile Group in Nueva Ecija, said the plants were uprooted and sent to the police provincial headquarters here for disposal. De Luna said the plantation was believed financed by New People's Army units operating in the area.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Lake agency warned

CALAMBA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo warned unscrupulous personnel of the Laguna Lake Development Authority against harassing business firms around Laguna de Bay in the guise of protecting the lake. The President said during the LLDA's 34th Anniversary held at a small fishing community here that she had received complaints from businessmen that several officials were using their positions in the agency for their alleged illegal activities. She said the LLDA should always work for the interest of poor fishermen without sacrificing the interest of industries that provide jobs to thousands of Filipinos.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P14B for Bicol projects

POLANGUI, Albay—President Macapagal-Arroyo said her administration has given Bicol an initial amount of P14 billion for flagship projects, such as the international port in Libon town. She said that as long as she is president, she would continue to pour financial assistance into the region so that it will be removed from its position as the second to the poorest region in the country.

Michael Jauclan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

35 studes hurt in crash

LUCENA CITY—At least 35 people, mostly school-bound students, were injured on Nov. 13 when a cargo vehicle lost its brakes and rammed three passenger jeepneys along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Isabang this city. A police report said all the victims were jeepney passengers who suffered slight or serious injuries in different parts of the body. Investigation showed that at about 6:30 a.m., the van was cruising downhill along the highway when its brakes malfunctioned. It hit the three jeepneys ahead of it before crashing into a waiting shed and the concrete fence of a house. All vehicles were totally wrecked. The driver of the van managed to jump out of his vehicle as it rolled over, leaving behind his helper who suffered slight injuries.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Edward Alviola, son of a fisherman and a very good swimmer, could have saved himself when the rough sea swept every passenger aboard a vessel at the height of typhoon "Weng." Instead, he tried to bring everyone to safety, especially the women and children.

"He was swimming back and forth just to save others. We were calling him to hold on to the life raft but he insisted that he needed to save the children and the women," said Bongbong, Edward's older brother.

He said Edward was not wearing a life jacket.

"After a while, he (Edward) was nowhere to be found. Maybe he got exhausted. We fear that he might be dead by now," said Bongbong. Another brother, Jun-Jun, was saved earlier in the waters near Cuyo Island in Palawan.

The ill-fated vessel, the ML Susan, left Sipalay City in Negros Occidental for Cuyo at about 10 p.m. on Nov. 13. It sank 14 nautical miles off the island at around 9 a.m. the next day after it was torn by huge waves spawned by the typhoon.

Coast Guard district commander Isidro Poblacion said 13 passengers had been rescued at the vicinity of Cuyo since Monday and were brought to the Cuyo District Hospital.

At 5 p.m. of Wednesday, rescuers saw the decomposing body of a boy, later identified as Jason de la Concepcion. His parents, Julito and Fidelina, who are from Cauyan, Negros Occidental, identified him through his shirt.

Jason, 3, and his sister Jonalyn, 10, died on their third day at sea. The parents decided to let go of the bodies that had been tied around them as they were already stinking.

Jonalyn's body was recovered Thursday morning.

The two will be buried in Cuyo, according to Dr. Angelo Aquino, district hospital chief.

Another survivor, Rona Mae Remegio,15, said she was saved because her father sacrificed his life. Her grandmother was still missing.

Richard Mendoza, 10, was slowly recovering from shock, said Aquino. He lost his parents and sister while they were floating for days.

Jun-Jun Alviola said the boat had about 60 passengers. It left Sipalay without the knowledge of the Coast Guard, he said.

"*Tumakas lang ang lantsa* (The vessel sneaked out)," he said.

Poblacion said they still did not have the manifest of the passengers because the vessel was not registered in Palawan but in Negros Occidental.

The Susan has a permit for tramping or for any route bas it transports cargoes, such such as rice and salt, to the islands.

An aerial search was ended Wednesday after finding no signs of survivors or debris, said Ferdinand Turbanos, vice president of the Negros Rescue Federation. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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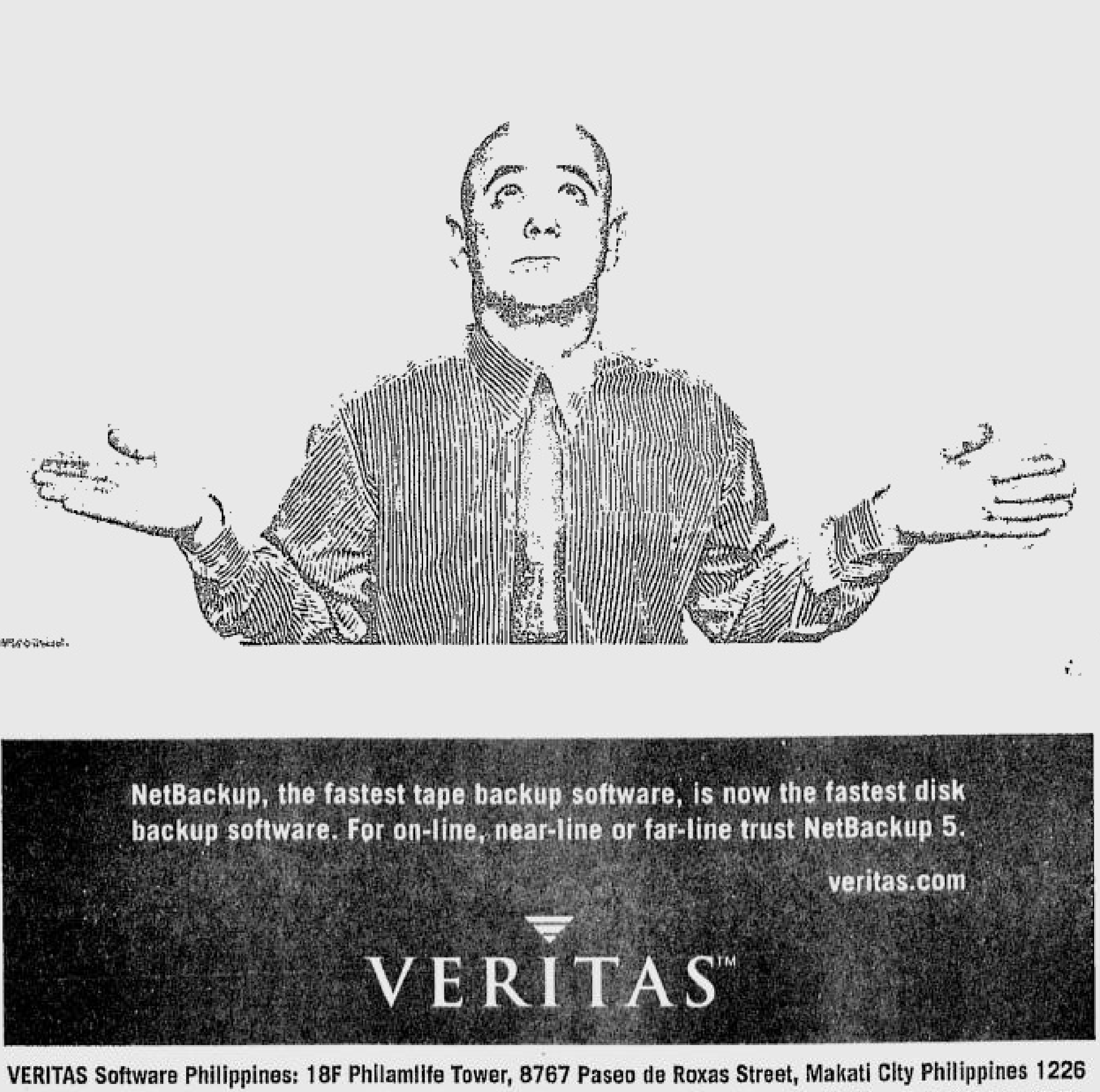

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Roco enters GMA country: 'Eku tatakut, keka pa?'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—"*Keng leon, keng tigre, eku tatakut, keka pa* (If I'm not afraid of the lion or the tiger, why should I be afraid of you)?"

Saying that old but still popular taunt twice and speaking it in Kapampangan as if talking to President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Sen. Raul Roco began his foray into Macapagal country, launching here on Sunday his Pampanga Volunteers for Roco Movement (Pavor).

Pavor gathered in the province about 1,000 village leaders who, Roco said, represented the "real masses" that the President had constantly wooed but failed to win over.

Pavor seems formidable because the group is composed of the staunchest allies of the President's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Lawyer Jose Suarez, a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention and to the 1986 Constitutional Commission, and former Pampanga Rep. Emigdio Lingad led the launching of Pavor.

Suarez made an indirect dig at Ms Macapagal, telling the audience that presidents were only entitled to a single term.

Lingad and other Pavor leaders took turns explaining why, even as Kapampangans, they decided not to support Ms Macapagal.

One of Pavor's conveners, lawyer Ricardo Sagmit, said there were "many disappointments and frustrations" under the Macapagal administration. "She has failed us," he said.

In his speech, Roco hailed the heroes and best traits of the Kapampangans, making constant references to the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos, the martyred Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and others.

"It's time to find a leader who will not forget the Filipinos," Roco said, citing the inability of elected leaders to follow the examples of heroes and their failure at governance.

Roco, a Bicolano, said he had high hopes of winning in Pampanga because he was rooted in the province's basic sectors.

In 1998 when he ran for president, he won in six towns and in this city.

Throughout the province, former President Joseph Estrada bested him only by a few hundred votes, he said.

Roco said his party Aksyon Demokratiko, Reporma and Promdi were holding the "Convention of Hope" on Nov. 30 to form the "Alyansa ng Pag-asa."

At a press conference, Roco claimed that surveys had shown that people in the A, B, C and D sectors were "very strongly" supporting his candidacy.

"We expect the support to become stronger," Roco said.

Fifteen former legislators, mostly from the 8th Congress, accompanied Roco during the launch.

"I'm for Roco right from the very start," said former Nueva Ecija Rep. Eduardo Nonato Joson as he dispelled reports that the Joson clan and its party Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) were behind Ms Macapagal.

But officials of the Pampanga Mayors' League said the province was still "GMA country."

In a statement, Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, PML president, dismissed Pavor as a group formed by "political has-beens."

Morales said "not a single incumbent" Pampanga official attended the launch. He defended the President, who, he said, was a "dedicated worker, a doer without fanfare."

The PML, according to Morales, was "behind the programs, plans and priorities of GMA, today and well beyond 2004."

Take 2 for Da King: Nothing final yet

From page A1

cannot be deaf to their clamor."

Asked by the newspaper if there was any chance he would change his mind about standing for president, Poe was quoted as saying, "No more."

"He was totally caught unawares (by the article)," Susan Tagle, Poe's spokesperson, told Reuters by telephone. "He had a very informal conversation with the reporter. They were just discussing possibilities. It is not an announcement and there is not going to be one in the next few days."

Like Tagle, Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto III insisted that Poe had yet to make an official declaration of his plans for 2004.

The news report in which Poe said he was heeding the clamor of the people for him to seek the presidency was not yet the official declaration, according to Sotto.

"He will announce at the proper time of his own choosing," Sotto said yesterday. This is something which the opposition senator has been saying to reporters for the past two weeks.

Fans

But insiders said Poe was not running. They said Poe was willing to submit to the selection process of the opposition so as not to disappoint his fans.

The insiders said Poe mentioned his willingness to submit himself to the selection process when he met with opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Nov. 14 at the actor's residence in Greenhills, San Juan.

Lacson, who has declared that he is running for president, had complained that the opposition had no selection process to speak of because some leaders of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino were pushing for Poe's candidacy.

Poe does not belong to any party and will need the political machinery of one group to sustain a nationwide campaign, analysts said.

Lack of expertise

He is a staunch friend of former President Joseph Estrada, himself a former movie idol, who was ousted in a popular revolt in January 2001 and is now on trial for plunder, a non-bailable offense.

Analysts have expressed concern that Poe's popularity could make him president despite a lack of political expertise at a time when the country is facing huge economic problems, including a faltering peso and a massive budget deficit.

Capability to govern

Although idolized by millions of poor Filipinos awed by his movie roles portraying him as a champion of the underdog who conquers all odds to triumph in the end, Poe has never held public office. Critics have also questioned his capability to govern a deeply divided country of 82 million people.

Asked by the newspaper why he thought he would make a good president, Poe said: "Because I am not beholden to anybody. And because I am not corrupt."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said Poe might suffer the same fate as Estrada if his platform would prove to be anti-people.

"If he has indeed thrown his hat into the ring, then we are excited," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño told the INQUIRER.

"We want to know very soon how he stands on the many issues confronting the nation. We want to know what his platform is," he said.

Not aware

Copa president William Esposo and member Boy Montelibano said they were not aware that Cojuangco was planning to back Poe and that Cojuangco's wife had been offered a slot in the actor's supposed senatorial lineup.

"If there was such a plan I would have heard about it," Esposo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But if the elections were held today, he claimed that most Copa members would vote for former Education Secretary Raul Roco. "I think he has a very good chance. He has a very good appeal among the youth."

Like most Copa officials, Saycon and Montelibano said they had yet to back a candidate for the presidency. But Saycon said each official would soon make public his "preferences" to help "guide" key sectors in choosing a competent candidate.

"Copa, as a group, has always been non-partisan so it won't come out with a single resolution supporting a particular candidate," Esposo said. *With reports from Reuters, Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*

Less confrontational Church seen under Rosales

From page A1

that under Rosales, the Church would keep out of political intervention, in a pendulum swing from Sin's highly interventionist and highly politicized ministry.

From Rosales' message, sources close to him said it prefigured a more restrained and selective engagement in secular politics. They expect a lower profile of the Church's political engagement.

At the reception following his installation, Rosales said in a brief interview with me: "There's hope (for the country) but it will not come from the politicians."

"But there are still inconsistencies that are difficult to explain much less mention in the community of a flock given to the Good Shepherd," Rosales said in his message, echoing the Church's "preferential option" for the poor.

"Poverty, side by side with the great wealth and power, is a situation difficult to portray much less to accept ... How does one accept hunger when within sight there is plenty? Perhaps an older shepherd is easier accepted than poverty amidst plenty. And the incredible becomes real when elders of their leaders quarrel while the weak languish further."

Rosales also voiced concern over the political turmoil that has rocked the nation over the past three years.

"More than anytime in our history, people are searching for ways toward unity, a way that will ultimately bring them justice, righteousness and peace. What they are looking is not a face but a brother, a sister, a friend," he said, envisaging the role of the Church as a mediator of conflict.

"Unity does not begin from the law, but it is born of love," he said. "In this archdiocese, we will approach this by beginning with ourselves, united in love and progressing with a pastoral vision."

Healing ministry

His message spelled out a policy foreshadowing a "healing" ministry in contrast to the active engagement of the Church under the ministry of Cardinal Sin. In the polarized politics of the streets highlighted by its militancy in two people power movements from 1986 to 2001, the Church played a key role in political mass mobilization directed at the removal from power of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and President Joseph Estrada.

Rosales said, "There is only one strategy for unity, whether a people is a Church, a group of believers or a nation. Some people think that they can make a headway toward reunification by the methods and strategies that do not link with love or its many works of compassion, understanding and forgiveness."

Repudiating the populist politics that promote class war or that pit the poor against the rich, Rosales asked the faithful to pray for him "that I may find His way, unquestionably among the poor, the weak and also among the rich, not for reasons of comparison, either by way of competition."

He said, "Anything less than love and its fruit—compassion—will destroy even the little hope that the poor has. Even the power of the rich will disappear without love, and the wealth of the powerful will become to naught."

He added, "We will work with the weak and powerful, the learned and the unlearned."

Rosales received the archbishop's staff just after the nation had narrowly escaped the political standoff over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. that pushed the country to the brink of a constitutional crisis. He also stepped into the ministry amid scandals that have rocked the Church over "sexual misconduct" involving a number of priests.

Foreshadowing a shift toward a less confrontational Church intervention in politics, Rosales stayed above the impeachment controversy even before his installation as archbishop of Manila. In a TV interview at the height of the impasse, Rosales declined to comment on the Davide case.

The installation of Rosales underlined the sharp contrast between smooth transition of leadership in the Church and the often turbulent transition of political power in the country, rocked in turmoil by two people power upheavals in 15 years and seven coup attempts in 1986-89, plus a rebellion by Estrada followers who stormed the presidential palace in May 2001.

It is a mark of the stability of the Church and the smooth transition of its leadership and the long tenure of the archbishops of Manila that there had been only three archbishops before Rosales since the archdiocese was Filipinized with the appointment of Gabriel Reyes in 1949, Rufino Cardinal Santos in 1953 and Sin in 1974.

Against the stable tenures of the three prelates in a space of 54 years, there have been 11 Philippine presidents from 1935 to 2001.

When Sin was installed, he took office just more than a year after martial law was declared by Marcos. At a time when the country needed a counterpoise to the dictatorship, Sin steered the Church toward being the only Philippine social institution that stood up against violation of human rights and repressive authoritarian rule and as a defender of democracy.

These circumstances defined the interventionist role of the Church under Sin's leadership.

Although Rosales has not spurned political activism, he showed concern over environmental issues when he was bishop of Bukidnon. He focused the mission of his diocese by mobilizing the faithful in a campaign for a moratorium on logging that had denuded the forests of Bukidnon.

Antecedents of clashes

History and tradition are redolent with antecedents of the clashes between the archbishop of Manila and Spanish civil authorities, even during the Spanish rule when the boundaries between the Church and State were blurred.

The archdiocese of Manila, the richest in the world next only to the archdiocese of New York, was the power base of even the Spanish archbishops in their conflict with Spanish civil authorities.

Archbishop Domingo de Salazar, in his Memoriala of 1582, denounced the abuses of the *encomenderos* and royal officials in the first confrontation between the Church and civil authorities. Salazar, in defiance of Spanish civil authority, declared the proscription of slavery in the colony.

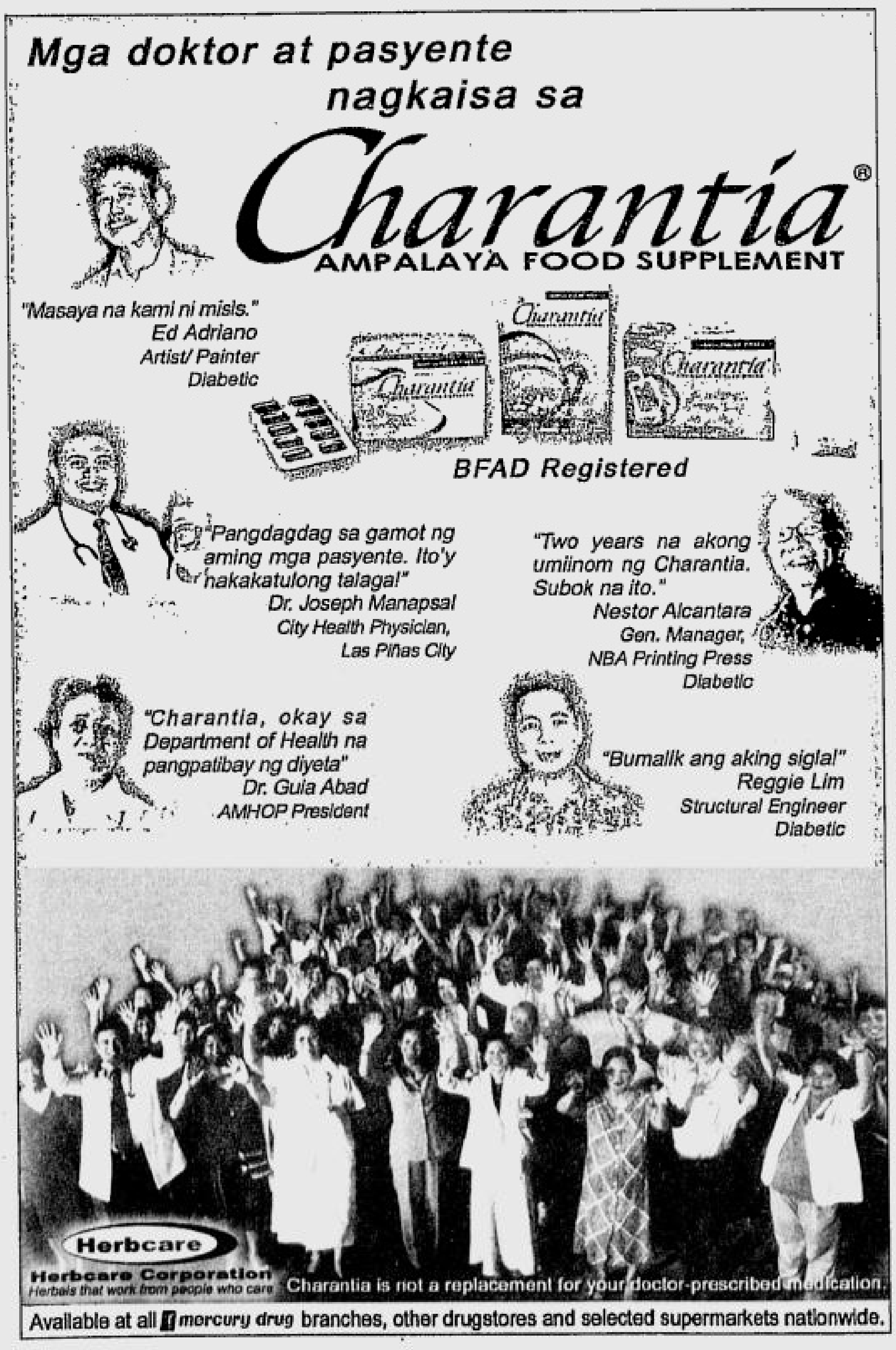
Archbishop Diego Camacho y Avila, in 1702, established the first seminary which opened the gate for the entry of Filipino clergy in the Church, marking the beginning of the secularization of the parishes all over the country.

In 1719, Archbishop Francisco de la Cuesta clashed with Gov. Fernando de Bustamante after the archbishop gave sanctuary to officials who had been the target of the governor's drive against corruption. When De la Cuesta rejected demands of the governor for him to lift the sanctuary, Bustamante had him and superiors of religious orders arrested. The arrest triggered the first people power under Spanish rule.

The nobles and merchants rushed out of the sanctuary and took up arms. They were joined in the streets by "*indios*" in the rising against the Spanish garrison. In the ensuing melee, Bustamante was killed—to the shout of the crowd, "The tyrant is dead!"

The history of conflict, sometimes bloody, between Church and State in the Philippines has been a recurrent theme in their relationship and has been replayed in post-Spanish Philippines, even in the republican milieu of separation between the two institutions.

This historical legacy of conflict cannot be lost on Archbishop Rosales as he steers the Church toward a less confrontational relations with the post-modern Philippine state.



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Ping . . .

From page A1

But when the INQUIRER confronted the actress after the meeting, she said, "I can't say that. Ask me in a month."

The report on Aquino's decision drew varied reactions, including one from the militant group Pamalakaya that was as equivocal as her expressed position on Thursday. While welcoming the actress' junking of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the fisherfolk group said her endorsement of Lacson or FPJ was based on "personal thrills" and was a "direct affront to millions of thinking and decent people in this country."

On Saturday, Aquino clarified that she still had to make a choice.

But Lacson maintained yesterday that Aquino had offered to support his candidacy and even gave him the option to consider other celebrities who might be "open to political endorsements."

The senator pointed out that he had not sought out the actress beforehand and had met her only through Fortun. Even so, he did not believe the actress' decision to support the opposition was dictated by anyone.

"Of course, (she) has not consulted her mother, or her uncle (Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino), or her brother (Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III)," Lacson said. "You know Kris—headstrong and independent. She's a big girl now, according to her, and whatever her choices and sentiments, she will express."

Lacson earlier promised to avoid turning his presidential bid into a circus, but is no longer hostile to the prospect of a celebrity-fueled campaign.

"Among the top endorsers are Kris Aquino, Sharon Cuneta and Aga Muhlach," he said. "We cannot consider Sharon, because she is married to administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan. Aga Muhlach has not approached us and we are not planning to approach him."

Should the opposition choose another standard-bearer, Lacson said, he would finish his term as senator in 2007 and retire from politics.

Representative Aquino, LDP secretary general who accompanied Lacson here, said he had no hand in his niece's declaration.

"Kris has her own mind," he said. "If she decides to support the opposition, that's very good. We can work together."

Mourners demand death penalty

From page A1

RAV4 in Quezon City.

On Friday, kidnappers believed to be members of the same syndicate snatched a Chinese-Filipino girl while she was on her way to school in Paco, Manila. As of yesterday, authorities claimed they had made no contact with either the family or the abductors.

A day before Sy's burial, kidnappers struck again, seizing a couple in Sultan Kudarat province.

Military officials said at least 10 heavily armed men snatched Boy Villarin and his wife Susan at their hardware at the public market in Esperanza town.

The kidnapping occurred a few hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo visited nearby Isulan town in connection with the province's 30th founding anniversary.

Rescue

Policemen and soldiers were able to rescue the couple when the getaway vehicle, an old Ford Fiera owned by the Villarins, turned turtle while speeding along the Sultan Kudarat-Maguindanao Highway.

Four suspected kidnappers—Ali and Allan Sarip, Mohammad Kasim and Allan Sumagumba—were arrested following the accident, but their companions managed to flee by commandeering a truck, the military said.

Allan Sarip was wounded in the leg.

The kidnappers were believed to be Pentagon gang members working for commander Mayangkang Saguile, according to Brig. Gen. Agustin Demaala, chief of the Army's 301st Infantry Battalion.

In a joint statement, several Chinese-Filipino organizations condemned Sy's senseless death and urged the government to implement the death penalty for convicted kidnappers. They also called on the government to "vigorously" go after kidnap syndicates and establish special courts for kidnap cases.

Patience

Faced with the protest, Malacañang asked for more patience and cooperation from the Chinese-Filipino community in the government's anti-kidnapping campaign.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said on RMN radio that it would be more productive to work together in solving the kidnapping problem than to put the blame on individuals and institutions.

A crowd of about 5,000 people preceded the funeral car carrying Sy's body and marched along Araneta Avenue for about an hour. The convoy took 30 minutes to pass through Quezon Avenue, jamming traffic. Several motorists trapped in the jam lowered their windows and raised their arms, their fists clenched.

On N. S. Amoranto Avenue (formerly Retiro Street), the marchers stopped and lit candles for Sy.

Sy's parents did not join the convoy but went straight to the cemetery. They did not go near Sy's tomb, however, but remained in their seats crying. The mother just stared at her daughter's tomb.

Sy's siblings opened their sister's casket for a few minutes. But media photographers started elbowing each other to take pictures, forcing the siblings to break their silence and yell at the media men.

By 3 p.m., Sy's tomb was sealed.

The family left without giving a statement to the media.

Reyes, Lim, Coseteng

National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force head Angelo Reyes, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, National Police Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay, former Sen. Nikki Coseteng and Citizens Action Against Crime chair Teresita Ang-See joined the march on Araneta Avenue.

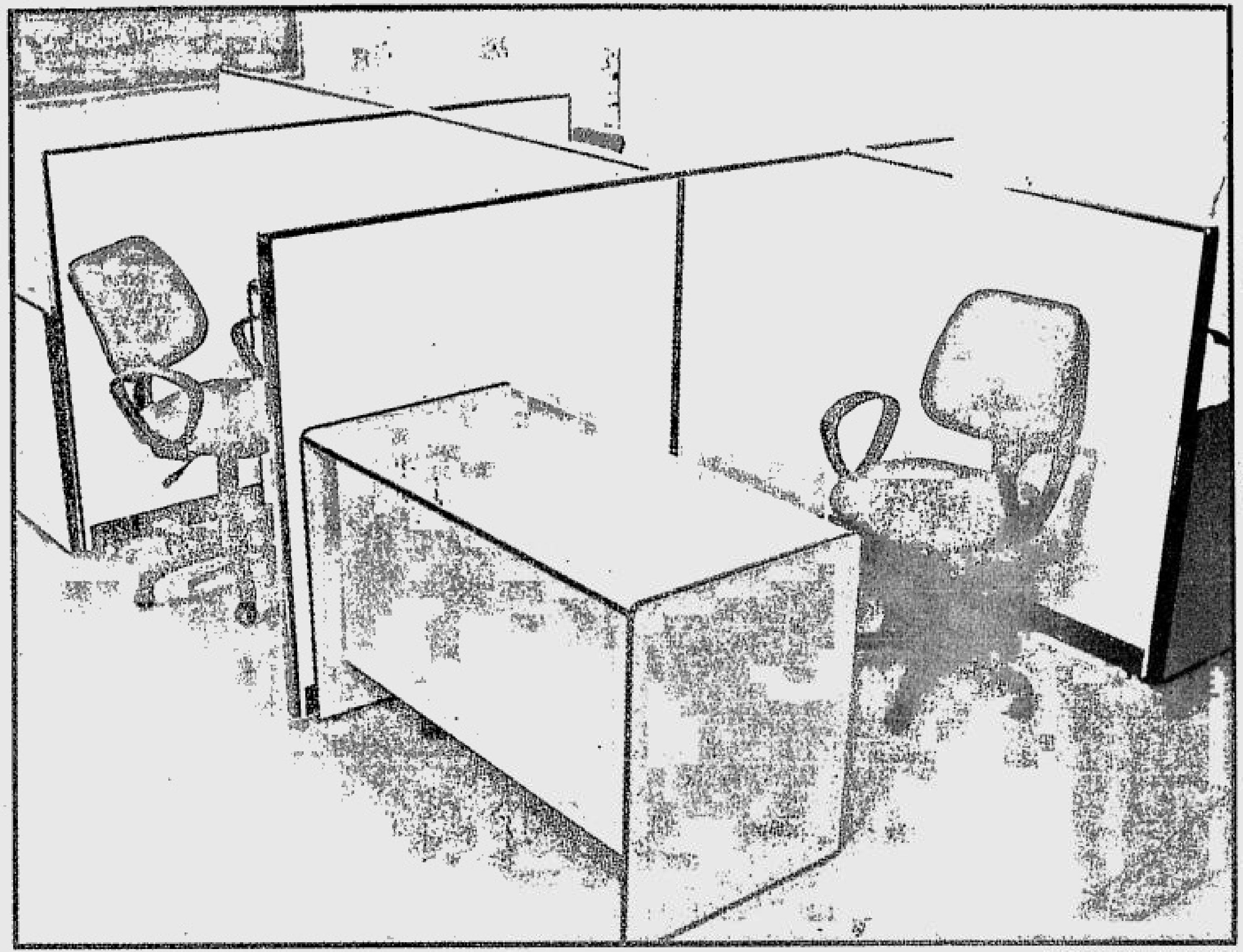
Despite calls for his resignation, Reyes told the INQUIRER that he would just concentrate on his job. "I won't allow myself to be distracted by criticisms," he said.

Crusade Against Violence founder Grace Maguan said her group would give Reyes a chance in his new job. She urged the government to "give us a chance to give justice to our loved ones by lifting the moratorium on the death penalty."

After putting seven convicts to death between 1998 and 1999, then President Joseph Estrada declared a moratorium on judicial executions.

His successor, Ms Macapagal, has not reversed his ban. She earlier said she was consulting with anti-crime groups and the Church about possibly lifting the moratorium "to strike fear in the hearts" of kidnappers, identified as among the key concerns of investors and businessmen.

Human rights groups say at least 1,500 people are languishing on death row in the country, many of them drug traffickers, rapists and kidnappers. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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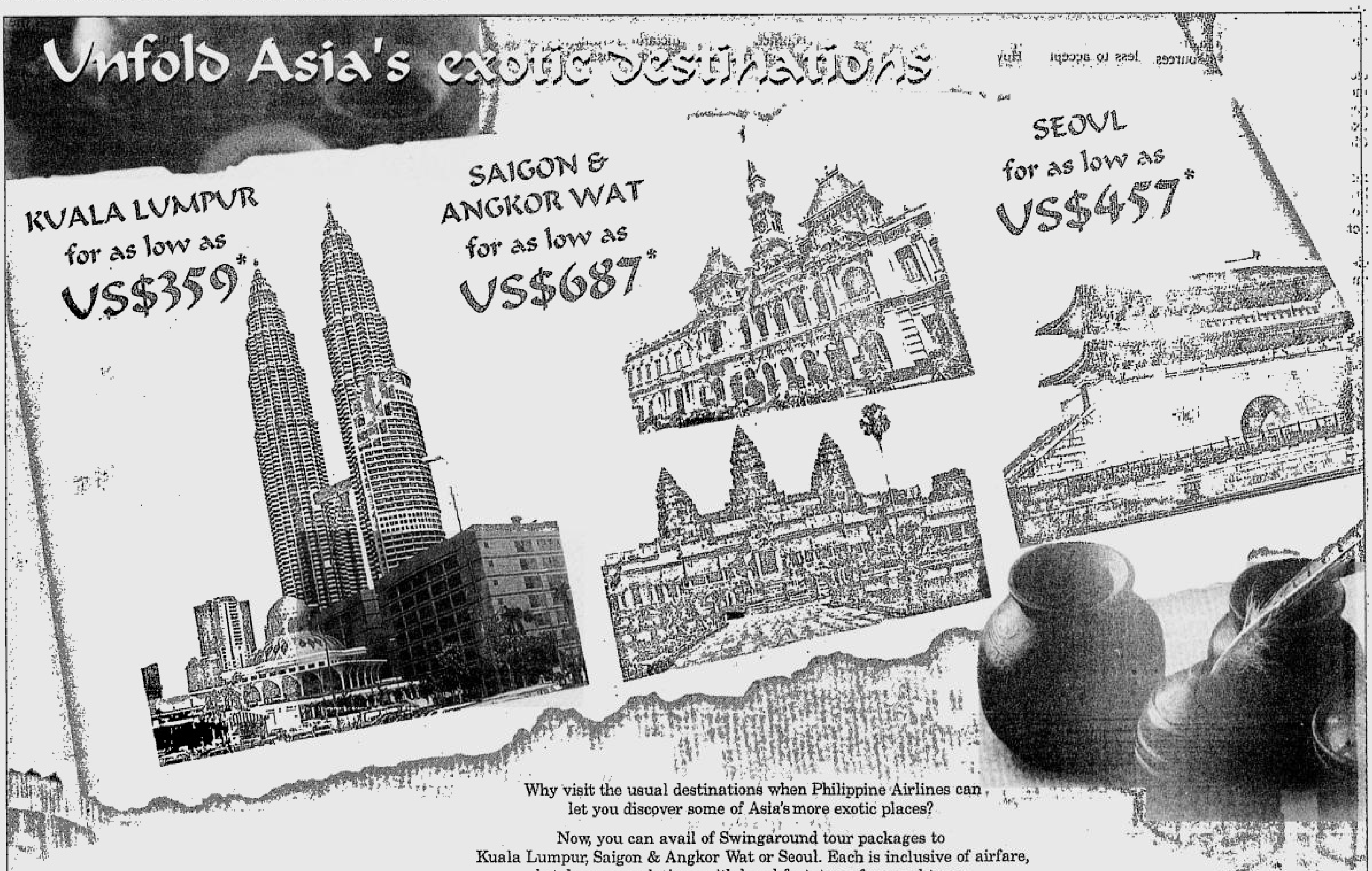
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Ad congress ends …

From page A1

think of politicians?

A joke and a menace, if Saturday's closing "parade of agencies" at the 18th Ad Congress was any guide.

The parade began with Ace Saatchi & Saatchi's playful remake of Baguio's famous "man in the barrel" sold in the city's tourist spots.

But instead of enormous wooden male organs springing out of their barrels, the men in the parade flashed the word "Erection."

They were followed by men wearing huge ballot boxes. When *they* raised their boxes, what came out were huge reproductions of male organs.

Words in the back of the boxes formed the sentence: "Think Out of the Ballot Box."

TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno used the "Santacruzan de Mayo" as its theme, but now redefined as "May election ba (Will there be elections)?"

Four men dolled up as carnival queens posed as "Reyna EmPER-Atriz," "May Election Ba," "Rosa Mysticash" and "Reyna Pazuhol," wearing ball gowns festooned with hundreds of fake peso bills made to look like curled-up lace.

The new "names" of the personalities in the popular Maytime procession were wordplays on money, the bane of Philippine elections.

Flying voters

The election phenomenon of "flying voters" was portrayed by different ad agencies as Superman, *aswang* (vampires), stewardesses in blue miniskirts rolling ballot boxes like carry-on luggage, giant flies and even fairies wearing huge swaths of pastel cloth as wings.

One agency featured *aswang* wearing sunglasses, bringing to mind the famous Philippine Tatler magazine cover with President Macapagal-Arroyo and some members of her Cabinet dressed up like Hollywood's "Men in Black."

Two agencies voted for clean elections with figures in white mask and white get-ups. An agency had white self-manipulating puppets carrying white placards with blank messages.

McCann-Erickson put on "McCarnaval," with a fortune teller advertising herself as "Madam Bola: Political Consultant." The seer was accompanied by a lion tamer, a clown, another model with a roulette wheel on her back where one spins for his political candidate.

Jimenez and Basic had "Cirque d'Election" as theme, with actors portraying Fernando Poe Jr. (the lion), Sen. Panfilo Lacson (the Joker), Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. (a character spinning plates), Sen. Edgardo Angara (a character wearing a tall hat) and Sen. Loren Legarda.

Campaigns and Grey featured a Raul Roco-lookalike wearing a flowery shirt and giant flowers behind him and his slogan's "May Pag-asa Pa Ang 'Pinas (There's hope yet for the Philippines)."

No politics

The real Roco, as organizers had promised, did not talk about politics in his speech during the Philippine Advertising Congress' closing program and awards night.

Roco instead talked about both celebrated and unsung Filipino heroes who demonstrated commendable Filipino traits, such as the boy from Bulacan who drowned saving nine of his friends during the Pagoda accident and the taxi driver who returned $2 million to a passenger.

He also talked about Juan Luna, Antonio Luna, Jose Rizal and Bicolano hero Gen. Simeon Ola, the last Filipino general to surrender to the Spaniards.

"Ate Glow," the comedian impersonating Ms Macapagal, appeared as presenter for the winners of the low-budget category in the Araw Awards.

Filipino values

The winning advertisements of the Araw Awards, however, focused on the call for the return of Filipino values. Platinum awardees—the best in their class among the 3,000-plus commercials considered—included McDonald's "Lolo" by Leo Burnett, Globe Telecom's "Punk" by McCann-Erickson, BBDO/Guerrero's "Visa-Dining Out" and TBWA's radio message "911" produced for the Philippine General Hospital.

McDonald's, whose "Lolo" had the grandfather halving his burger with his favorite granddaughter, was also awarded the Advertiser of the Year for garnering the most number of award-winning ads.

In his remarks, David Guerrero, the congress' creative committee chair, said the Philippine advertising industry was slowly being taken over by foreign companies.

He said 90 percent of personal care product ads are being post-produced in other countries. Other ad contracts have been taken over by ad agencies in Singapore and Australia.

"We must act so that this would not go on. The best ideas that must reach Filipinos must be made here. Without great execution, there is no big idea," he said.

BBDO/Guerrero's "Dining Out" for Visa, which was shown internationally, featured Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon star Zhang Ziyi battling the whole kitchen crew after she said "the soup was too salty."

Other multi-awardees were BBDO/Guerrero's ads for Bantay Usok and dot.ph; Fita's "Best Friend" (friendship recalled and betrayed over a single cookie) by Lowe; and Adidas Philippines' anti-fake ad, which featured a tri-striped bandage.

Other Araw Platinum Awardees were Listerine Philippines' Pocket Pals' "Truth or Dare," Surf's radio ad "Drama," and AMA Computer College's radio ad "Boobs 2."

WEARING an Afro wig, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (left) and columnists Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap entertain guests during the Ad Congress in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI N. LUZON BUREAU

INQ TV Inquirer's newest baby

From page A1

per on air," Romualdez said the program will be carried by the ABC 5 network, which is under new management.

At the ABC 5-sponsored party for delegates at the Camp John Hay clubhouse on Saturday night, the network's new owner said he was optimistic about the tie-up between his network and the country's leading newspaper.

"The INQUIRER wants to capture the mass market. We are giving the paper an opportunity to reach out to the masses," said Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, also chair of the giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Other big ideas

Cojuangco pointed to Marc Roces of Jemah Productions as the man who conceptualized the tie-up.

Apart from INQ TV, Romualdez cited other "big ideas" the public can expect from the paper next year, including:

- A special focus on "positive" stories, which will be given space on the front page and in other sections to counter a culture of negativism.
- Continuing emphasis on printing innovations, such as the super panoramic spread. Romualdez said the INQUIRER was only the second newspaper outside Japan to offer the special advertising vehicle.
- Improvement in coverage, particularly in sports and entertainment.
- Expansion of the coverage of Junior INQUIRER nationwide.
- A thoroughgoing readers' program to encourage Filipinos to read more, through the INQUIRER Readers Club and the use of more stories focusing on the interests of young readers.
- Continuing dedication to environmental issues. Romualdez said the paper helps conserve resources through the use of soy-based ink. It also recycles paper, through its "new paper" drive, to save trees.
- Expansion in newspaper circulation.

Romualdez said the paper was now available on 21 domestic flights. She said the company has put up printing presses in Davao City, Cebu City and Mamplasan, Laguna, to assure readers and advertisers of faster distribution and wider circulation.

To reach more readers, the newspaper also distributes INQUIRER Libre to MRT and LRT commuters and On the Road and the South Express to expressway travelers.

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Angry friend can be your worst enemy

By Tarra Quismundo

ALCOHOL and rage could make the worst foe out of a close friend.

That's what happened to Richard Icamen, 28, whom police arrested the other night after stabbing his neighbor and childhood buddy, Cesar Pohol.

Police said Icamen and Pohol had been drinking with friends in celebration of Icamen's birthday in Paco, Manila.

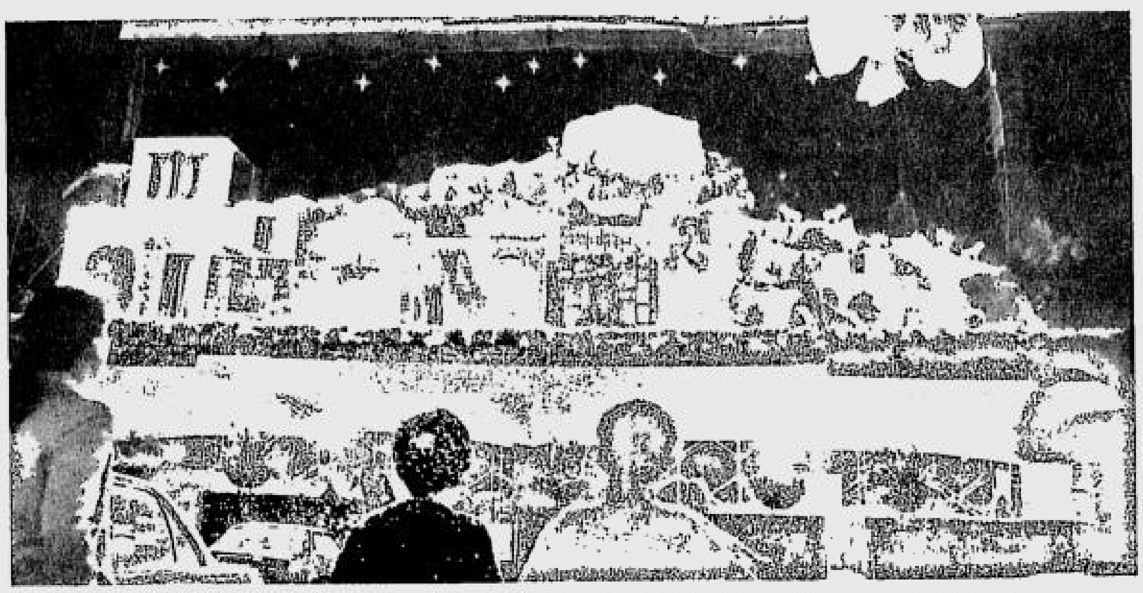
At around 11 p.m., Icamen got angry when Pohol apparently sided with a party guest who figured in a scuffle with another guest.

Icamen and Pohol almost came to blows but were pacified by their guests. Icamen then left, but returned shortly brandishing a knife.

Police said Icamen again confronted Pohol, and began waving the knife in front of him. Pohol dodged Icamen's first stab, but was hit by the next one in his chest.

The stab brought Pohol down to the ground. Icamen then let go of his knife, as if he was suddenly brought back to his senses.

COD Xmas show goes on in Greenhills



THE FAMED COD Christmas show continues to thrill adults and children in Greenhills. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE 45-YEAR-OLD Christmas display of the Manila COD Department Store will not be missed after all.

The animated show, which had brought joy to millions, can now be seen beneath the gigantic sign of the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. It is displayed on top of the 50-meter pedestrian walkway facing Ortigas Avenue.

Complete with narration, music and sound, this year's inaugural show in Greenhills depicts the nativity scene, where Mary and Joseph search for a place to stay and are led by a boy to a manger where Jesus is born.

"The beautiful tradition started 45 years ago by the Rosario brothers should not die," said Rex Drilon, chief operating officer of Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership.

According to Drilon, the nativity scene was chosen because it gives a powerful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Five 15-minute shows, that start at the beginning of each hour from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., began playing Nov. 19 and will run through Jan. 4, 2004.

"The display is better and bigger because the management of the Greenhills Shopping Center is very supportive," said Alex Rosario, one of the owners of the Manila COD.

Seventeen people that did the COD display in Cubao are doing the Greenhills display. However, 60 people were needed to finish the display for opening night.

Drilon explained that Don Rafael Ortigas, president of Ortigas & Company, wanted the COD Christmas display in Greenhills after the Cubao landmark closed down in March this year.

"Don Ortigas wants it as a special gift to children this Christmas," Drilon said.

He added that it would be a meaningful contribution to perk up the Filipino's holiday mood. "It's a free Christmas present to shoppers and passersby," he said.

Negotiations with the Rosario brothers to bring the COD Christmas display to Greenhills started in July.

The COD never failed to put up the show despite the crisis.

Waterless? Blame NWRB, says Maynilad

OFFICIALS of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the public should blame the National Water Resources Board for the sudden, unexpected reduction of the daily water allocation from Angat Dam for Metro Manila residents.

They said this was the reason why several places in its concession area had been waterless for the past days.

Rafael Aguado, Maynilad vice president for operations, said the Water Board has decided to unilaterally limit the daily water allocation to only 36.80 cubic meters per second from the previously agreed 46 cubic meter per second.

Aguado said this has significantly reduced the daily water production of Maynilad, thus adversely affecting customers in the west zone area covering Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Manila, Pasay and Parañaque. *Tina Santos*

Fire guts community hit by gastro outbreak

By Tarra Quismundo

A COMMUNITY in Tondo, Manila, which was among those recently hit by a gastroenteritis outbreak was ravaged by fire early yesterday morning.

The fire that was reportedly sparked by a lighted candle engulfed 16 shanties in Barangay 95. It destroyed P900,000 in property and left 200 people homeless.

Three reportedly suffered minor injuries during the incident.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in Manila said the fire broke out at 1:07 a.m. at a two-story house at the corner of Capulong and Varona Streets and quickly spread to neighboring makeshift houses.

The blaze was declared fully extinguished at 2:35 a.m.

Manila's Department of Social Welfare chief Jose Baranda said some residents in the affected area had been using candles since electricity was cut off due to unpaid accounts.

Baranda said many of the people displaced by the fire now stay on the street fronting their former community.

The blaze was the second calamity to hit Barangay 95.

Barangay 95 was among the 12 barangays hit by an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis on Oct. 23. As an aftermath, the barangay was also among the areas placed by the Manila City Council under a state of calamity.

More than 800 people in Tondo were hospitalized due to the outbreak.

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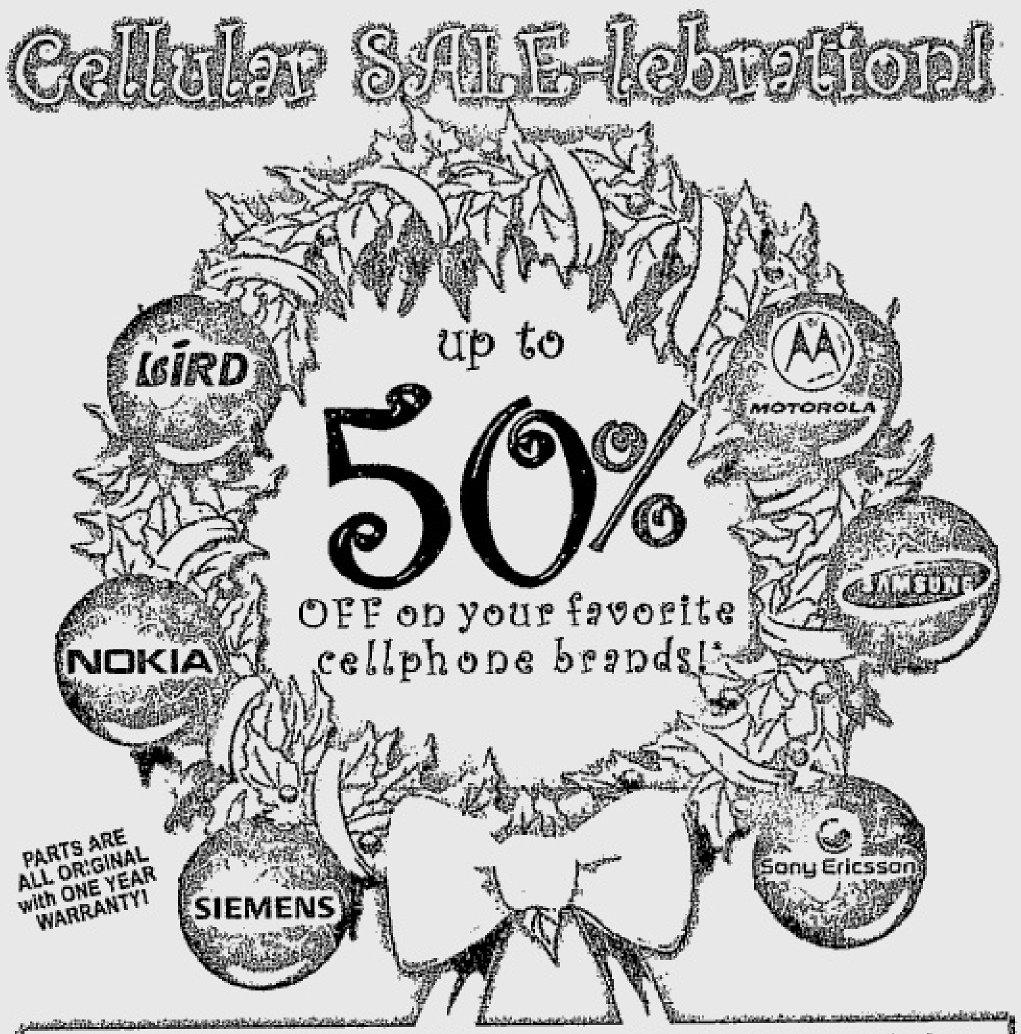
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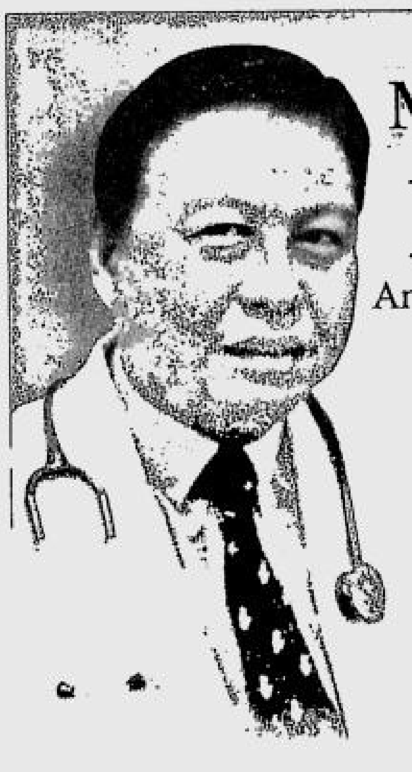
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METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

End to towing woes seen

By Tarra Quismundo

MOTORISTS may soon say goodbye to abusive towing firms in Manila.

Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. recently said that the local government would soon ban private towing operations in the city.

He disclosed that the city was buying its own tow trucks and would be solely undertaking towing activities in Manila.

The local government came up with this decision due to complaints from motorists whose cars were towed away even when they were close by, or even inside their vehicles.

Atienza explained that private towing firms do these for profit. He said such incidents could be avoided with a city-run towing service, which would be done as a public service.

Last week, 1st district councilor Isko Moreno complained that his car was towed away by a truck of the Cathy and Kyle towing company as his white 1993 Volkswagen was parked on Arroceros Street.

Moreno told the INQUIRER that there was no sign on Arroceros that declared it a tow-away and no parking zone.

"If they can do this to a city councilor, what more to ordinary people?" said Moreno.

The Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau will operate the city's towing service and will not accredit any private towing company.

SPO4 Oscar Huliganga of the Traffic Enforcement Group said private tow trucks haul an average of eight vehicles a day to the city impounding area on Carlos Palanca Street in Quiapo.

Huliganga said that the number increases on days when roads are less congested, as cars would park even on major thoroughfares. Owners of impounded vehicles are then charged P1,700.

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Residents of Angono, Rizal, watch a colorful parade that features giant effigies made of paper-maché on Sunday in celebration of the annual feast of St. Clements, the fourth Pope of the Catholic church, who is believed to bring good fortune. EPA

Avoid Pacquiao parade route, motorists told

MOTORISTS are advised to avoid the route of the victory motorcade set today in Manila for IBF Superbantamweight Champion Manny Pacquiao.

A press statement from the Manila City Hall asked motorists to take alternate routes to and from their destination.

Mayor Joselito Atienza said a motorcade around the city will be held this morning. A victory party will be held in the evening at the Plaza Rajah Sulayman.

The motorcade will start before 9 a.m. after Pacquiao attends the flag-raising ceremony at Manila City Hall.

The motorcade will start at Taft Avenue in front of City Hall, cross Jones Bridge, turn right at Escolta, left to Dasmariñas St., right to Quintin Paredes St., right to Reina Regente St., left to Claro M. Recto Avenue, right to Del Pan, and left to Zaragoza St.

It will then go right to Road 10, right to Moriones St., left to Juan Luna St., right to Tayuman St., straight to A.H. Lacson Avenue (Gov. Forbes), Legarda, straight to P. Casal St., straight to Ayala Blvd., left to Taft Ave., then left to Buendia Ave. The motorcade would go straight to Ayala Avenue and end at Edsa.

Pacquiao is also scheduled to pay a courtesy call to President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang at 2 p.m.

At 7 p.m., a victory party and concert, which is open to the public, will be held at the redeveloped Plaza Rajah Sulayman in Malate. Top Filipino performers will perform during the victory party being organized by the City of Manila and Solar Sports.

Motorists are advised to avoid the Plaza Rajah Sulayman area, including the Roxas Boulevard service road, and take alternate routes such as Mabini, M.H. Del Pilar, Adriatico Street and Taft Avenue.

The motorcade and victory party will be held as tribute to Pacquiao for his extraordinary feat of defeating featherweight boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera of Mexico.

"We are inviting our fellow Manileños to gather along the route of the motorcade so they can cheer Manny, who has brought much honor to our country and to our city," Atienza said.

Robbers barge into QC hotel, hold up diners

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

FIVE armed robbers barged into a hotel in Quezon City on Saturday night, held up customers who were having dinner, took away more than P100,000 in cash and valuables and then left.

It took the robbers less than a minute to do this.

Police said the robbers struck at 7:40 p.m. at the Robinsdale Hotel in Palanza Street corner Araneta Avenue in Barangay Doña Imelda.

PO1 Edel Canaveral of the Central Police District Galas Station told the INQUIRER yesterday two of the suspects disarmed the lone security guard, Samer Sampugao.

They then barged into the hotel's canteen followed by two other suspects, pointed their guns at the guests and told them to lie down on the floor, and then started going over the guests' bags and belongings.

Afterward, the suspects ran away, boarded a vehicle parked a few meters from the hotel and fled.

Aside from their cell phones, Amelita Castillo, 36, lost P9,000; Ilyn Geronimo, 26, lost her 18-k gold necklace, watch and P20,000; Maggiscar Cabral, 26, lost P25,000; and Ignacio Quichocho, 52, lost P20,000 to the robbers.

Chinese national Shudi Ito and American Borja Shawn lost P25,000 and $300 (P15,000) respectively.

The victims told police the robbers were armed with different types of guns.

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SPORTS

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McClary powers Coke; SMB wins

By June Navarro

TEE McClary whipped up a storm of a game last night, leading the Coca-Cola Tigers to an 88-73 mauling of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at the start of their semifinal series in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Recovering from fatigue after the quarterfinal duel against Barangay Ginebra last Wednesday, McClary erupted for 44 points on top of 22 rebounds and five steals as the Tigers gained headway in their best-of-five series against the Phone Pals.

San Miguel Beer also displayed superb firepower in crushing Sta. Lucia Realty, 109-88, in their own semifinal duel.

"I felt energized going into the game. That three-day rest after the series against Ginebra helped me a lot," said McClary, who nailed four of his 11 three-point attempts.

Poch Juinio, Rob Wainwright and Jeffrey Cariaso also contributed heavily for the Tigers while playmaker Johnny Abarrientos exploited Jimmy Alapag's absence as he masterfully orchestrated Coca-Cola's plays.

The Tigers try to close in on a fourth straight conference Finals' appearance when they shoot for a 2-0 lead Wednesday.

"I have no doubt in my mind that Talk 'N Text will try to come back in Game 2. I'm sure coach Joel (Banal) will find ways to adjust," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

For a team that Reyes said was dead-tired, the Tigers showed a lot of energy in inflicting a third straight loss on the Phone Pals in the conference.

But Coke knows there's no underestimating TNT.

For sure, Reyes and the Tigers clearly remember the All-Filipino Finals last June where they opened a 2-0 lead only to lose four games in a row and the crown to the Phone Pals.

Alapag, who underwent surgery to repair his nose fractured by a vicious tackle by Red Bull's Jimwell Torion in the quarterfinals last week, watched intently on the sidelines.

Alapag will be fitted with a protective mask if the Talk 'N Text coaching staff decides to field him in Game 2.

The Tigers caught the sleepy Phone Pals by surprise as McClary, Juinio, Cariaso and Rudy Hatfield dropped a 10-0 bomb at the beginning of the third quarter that stretched Coca-Cola's lead to 49-34.

Damien Cantrell tried to revive the Phone Pals, scoring six straight points that trimmed the gap to 42-56 in the third period.

But McClary buried consecutive three-pointers and Wainwright, the league's top three-point artist, drilled in a triple of his own in the last quarter that finally took the sting out of the Phone Pals.

COLLARED: Poch Juinio of Coca-Cola gets entangled with Harvey Carey of Talk 'N Text in this bit of action last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBA Scores

First Game

COCA-COLA 88—McClary 44, Juinio 12, Cariaso 8, Wainwright 7, Hawkins 3, Hugnatan 2, Avenido 2, Reavis 2, Abarrientos 2, Hatfield 2, Morano 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 73—Carey 21, Cantrell 15, Taulava 11, Belano 7, Telan 6, Pablo 6, Fran 3, Villa 2, Ravena 2, Locsin 0, Manalo 0.

Quarters: 16-19, 39-34, 62-46, 88-73

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 109—Johnson 22, Peña 18, Mente 16, Hontiveros 15, Ildefonso 13, Belasco 8, Victoria 5, Gahol 3, Legaspi 2, Gamboa 0, Racela 0.

STA. LUCIA 88—Tutt 26, Espino 19, Duremdes 17, Aquino 9, Adriano 7, Mendoza 4, Webb 2, Santos 2, Tan 2, Bat-og 0, Victolero 0, Ong 0.

Quarters: 32-22, 50-41, 75-63, 109-88

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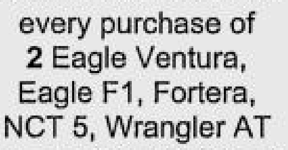
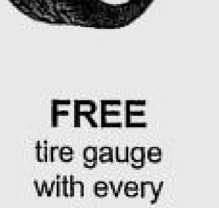
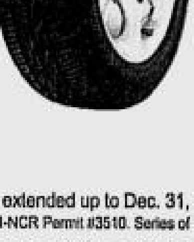
Merry Christmas. Happy GOODYEAR







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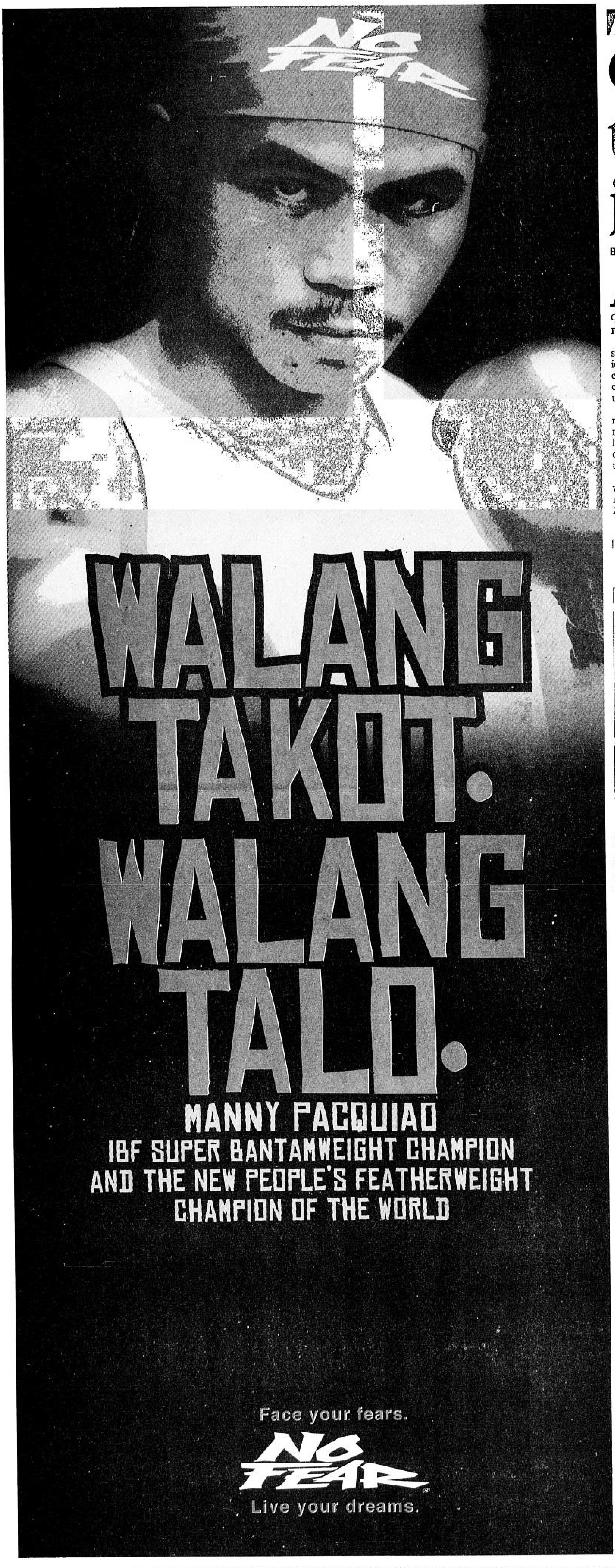
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Gamboa to seek WBA jr. fly crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay

ANOTHER Filipino boxer tries to retrace Manny Pacquiao's path to glory early next year.

Joma Gamboa, the WBA No. 2 strawweight, moves up to the heavier junior flyweight category to challenge World Boxing Council champion Jorge Arce either in January or February in Mexico City.

Japanese Joe Koizumi, Gamboa's manager, told the INQUIRER in an e-mail interview that Mauricio Sulaiman, the son of the WBC president, is behind the negotiations for the Arce-Gamboa clash.

The hard-punching Gamboa, 30, who briefly held the WBA minimumweight crown, parades a 33-7-2 win-draw-loss card with 22 KOs. In his last fight last September, Gamboa beat neophyte Rodel Quilaton in Ormoc City.

Gamboa is currently undergoing extensive build-up at the ALA Gym in Nasipit, Talamban under trainer Juanito Ablaca.

"I am preparing hard for Arce. My manager has already informed me about the fight," said Gamboa.

The 24-year-old Arce, from Los Mochis, Mexico, boasts of a fearsome 34-3-1 record with 25 KOs. In his last fight last May, Arce retained his title with a controversial technical decision over Melchor Cob Castro in Las Vegas after sustaining injury from an accidental headbutt.

The Lorenzo Lopez-managed Arce captured the WBC crown with a decision over Juanito Rubillar on Oct. 20, 2001. He has defended his title four times on top of two non-title victories.

Victory party for Pacquiao slated tonight

MANNY Pacquiao will be treated to a victory party that will be open to the public at 7 tonight at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza on Roxas Boulevard.

Pacquiao, who scored a sensational 11th round stoppage of Mexico's much-heralded Marco Antonio Barrera last Sunday, will be on hand to share his triumph with his fans and well-wishers.

The party, hosted by Solar Sports and the City of Manila, is dubbed "Manny Pacquiao. Ang Bagong Pilipino. Kampeon ng Mundo."

Featured performers are Parokya ni Edgar, Geneva Cruz, Sex Bomb Dancers, Gee Girls, Andrew E, Salbakuta and Masculados, with Willie Revillame and Pia Guanio as hosts.

There will be a big screen onstage that will project the night's festivities and show highlights of Pacquiao's ring career.

"Manny Pacquiao's victory over Barrera means so much to so many of our countrymen. He has made all of us proud to be Filipinos," said Solar Sports chair Wilson Tieng. "This party is an opportunity for Manny and his many supporters to celebrate his victory in grand fashion."

Solar Sports, TV coverors of the Pacquiao-Barrera fight, will come out with a two-hour TV special next week on Pacquiao's rise to stardom.

Gerry Peñalosa climbs ring again in January

FORMER world champion Gerry Peñalosa will make his first comeback fight on Jan. 16, 2004, promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. announced yesterday.

Elorde, who met with Peñalosa in Sucat, Parañaque City last Thursday, said the 31-year-old southpaw from San Carlos City will fight for the World Boxing Organization (WBO) Asia Pacific bantamweight title either at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater or the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Elorde said he has already told the WBO, through its Asia Pacific top official Leon Panoncillo of Hawaii, about Peñalosa's bid.

Elorde initially planned to pit Peñalosa against his former victim, Ratanachai Sor Vorapin, the reigning WBO Asia-Pacific bantamweight titlist.

But Panoncillo told Elorde that Vorapin will be vacating the throne primarily to get a world title shot.

"I'm sure Gerry's opponent will be a Thai, but it's not Vorapin," said Elorde. "I'll get another formidable foe for him."

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Requiem for a press freedom champ

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

THEY buried him in his farm way past sundown.

The young night was already very dark. Mourners groped like an army of lost, seeking ants as they walked through the grassy, uneven farm path all the way to the private graveyard.

After they had buried Jose Burgos Jr., undisputed champion of press freedom, in a sunrise-side tomb in his 12-hectare farm in San Miguel, Bulacan, one veteran newspaperwoman wondered why the media hero, who succumbed to heart failure at 62 after a grim bout with prostate cancer, had chosen a unique burial, away from the crowded city where he first worked as a celebrated police reporter.

"So you have a farm where you too could be buried?" the female journalist asked a former officemate whom she had not seen for years.

"I don't even have a house of my own," the man said before mingling with the crowd that moved back to where vans and cars waited to transport the mourners to Manila, three hours away from the farm.

There had been a clamor for Burgos to lie in state for at least one night in a Manila parlor, or maybe at the National Press Club, for his friends and admirers to be able to pay their last respects to the superstar journalist who had openly defied Marcos at the height of the Great Ilocano's dictatorial madness.

Edith, wife of the celebrated media man who was honored as a Press Freedom Hero of the Century in New York in 2000, said there was no way they could've disobeyed Burgos' wishes, mainly his last.

He was very, very strict with his schedules and his plans, he did everything to the letter, explained the composed, comely wife when her turn came up to thank the mourners.

***

There was a long, tedious ceremony, the late November sun had already set and it was already dark when they finally started the funeral march from a makeshift chapel where Burgos lay in state.

If all those scheduled to speak during the final farewell rites had been given the floor, there was no doubt Burgos would have been buried deep in the night, way past dinnertime.

The Vice President, Teofisto Guingona, extolled Burgos as an undisputed champion of press freedom.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, himself obviously at a loss why Burgos had chosen the sleepy, far-off Bulacan farm at the edge of Nueva Ecija, remained perplexed.

Joe was a man alone, Pimentel said, but alone in the sense of not belonging to the ordinary run of human beings.

If Joe were run-of-the-mill, said Pimentel who, just like Joe Burgos stood firm against the Marcos tyranny, he would have shined the shoes of the dictator and written paeans about him. But Burgos, said the good senator, believed that, if people were totally silenced, then freedom would be more difficult to assert or restore to the land.

Actually, Sen. Pimentel also continued to be deeply puzzled why Joe, instead of demanding "his just deserts from the new government" following the fall of Marcos, fled to his farm.

It was, Pimentel surmised, a long distance run from the writer's desk as Joe asserted his integrity. It was even a longer run—from the pen to the plow.

Pimentel said the more admirable thing about Burgos was that he left newspapering at the time when his paper would have started to make genuine money because of his perceived closeness to the powerbrokers in government.

"I think he did what he did because it was to him the only way he could keep his integrity, it was the only way he could be true to his principles," Pimentel explained.

Rep. Satur Ocampo, saying Burgos had always been consistent with his commitments to the Filipino people, said the press freedom champion had not really abandoned the fighting pen.

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Of course, the most memorable quote about Joe was not spoken during the final rites, but two days earlier, during the Philets night.

It was offered by Madame Nena Zumel-Lopez who, noting that Burgos was a James Dean fan, said that Joe, unlike his Hollywood idol, was a rebel with many worthy causes.

And to think that this fighting journalist fought it out with Marcos, doing it on the surface, frontally, while brother rebels who had joined the Leftist movement had to do it underground.

Actually, lawyer Rene Saguisag, another freedom fighter incarcerated by Marcos, was called in to speak. He however waived his stint in due respect.

It was getting terribly late even for a private farm funeral.

Torches had to be planted along the path to the graveyard.

After 21 explosions of native rockets roused the evening skies, a final hymn, Bayan Ko, was hummed.

Mourners walked away from the tomb holding onto lighted candles.

A cool, evening breeze blew through the towering bamboo poles as stars shone on the fresh, solitary grave.

There were no ticker tapes, it was very quiet.

But the true champ was finally home.

Fairytale fireflies flickered among the trees.

Chung, Arevalo grab PCA singles crowns

TOP seeded Korean Chung Hee-Seok came back from two sets down to beat second seed Johnny Arcilla, 2-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3, yesterday for the men's singles title in the Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao.

It took almost three hours for the 26-year-old Chung to overcome the gritty Arcilla, who breezed through the first two sets only to see the Korean spring back to life and wrap up the match.

Vietnam SEA Games-bound Czarina Mae Arevalo stamped her class over third seed Alyssa Anne Labay, 6-1, 6-0, to retain the ladies singles title.

Arevalo, seeded fourth, also won the doubles title with Ana Patricia Santos after posting a 6-1, 6-4 win over top seeds Rina Caniza and Jennifer Saret.

"I'm happy to win the title," said the 18-year-old Arevalo, who earned P34,000, including her P4,000 share in the doubles.

Arevalo, a high school senior at the Angelicum School, started the year on top of the Philta national rankings but slid to No. 4 after taking a three-month break from competition.

"*Talagang malakas ang bola ni* Czarina, *hindi ako makaporma* (Czarina is too strong for me)," said the 17-year-old Labay.

Meanwhile, top seeds Chung and compatriot Seung Hoon-Oh dethroned defending champions Arcilla and Michael Mora III, 6-1, 6-1, to become the fourth Korean pair to win the doubles title in this event presented by Dunlop and sponsored by Diadora, PLDT, Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola, Copacabana, San Miguel Corp., Stronghold, Little Lawrence, PVL Restaurant and the Philippine Star.

In the juniors division, top seed Nico Riego de Dios defeated second seed Jandrick de Castro, 6-2, 6-1, to capture the boys' 18-under title.

OTHER finals winners: R. Barte d. C. Canlas, 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 (16-under); P. Olivarez II d. L. Moncera, 6-3, 6-3 (14-under); K. Saraza d. E. Olivarez Jr., 6-2, 6-2 (12-under); B. Siso d. E. Ferrer, 6-1, 6-4 (unisex 10-under).

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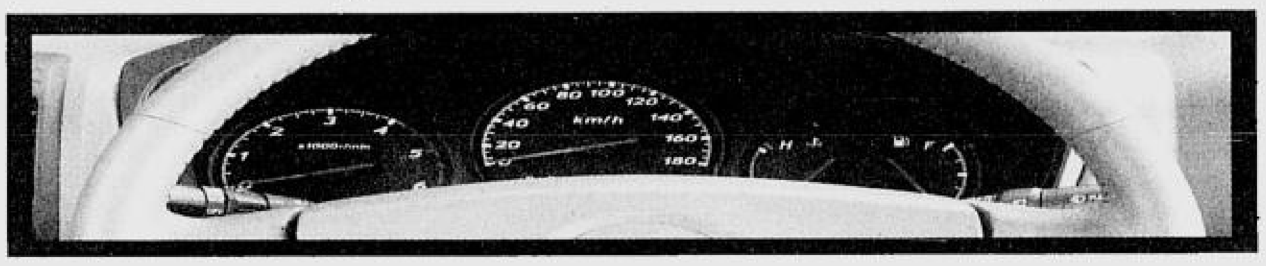

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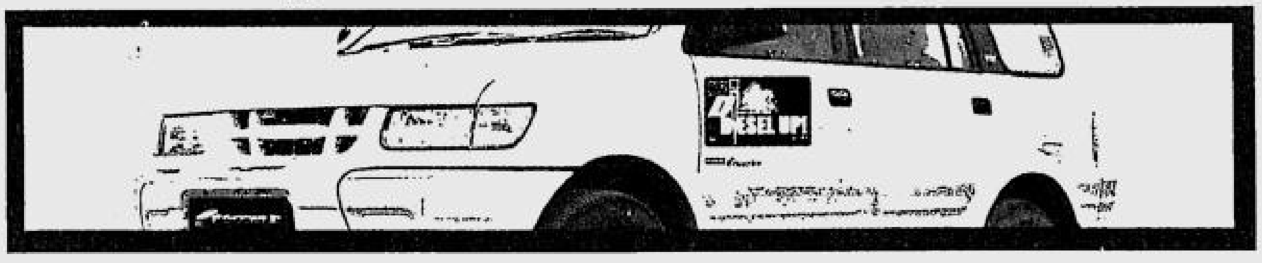

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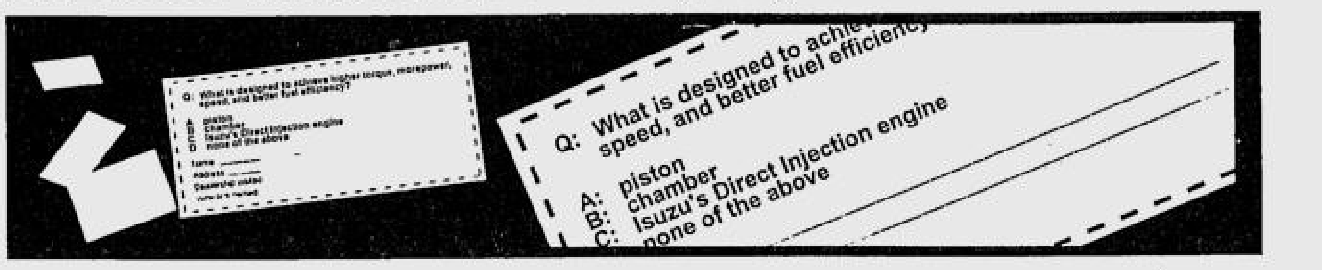

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SPORTSWATCH

McNish, Formula One car wow 'em

MCNISH: The Flying Scot

WORLD renowned Formula One (F1) driver Allan McNish and the multimillion dollar Mild Seven Renault R23 race car drew hoards of racing enthusiasts to The Fort in Taguig during the recently held party marking the culmination of the Mild Seven F1 Slipstream raffle promo. McNish was on hand as Mild Seven officials gave away six out of eight all-expense-paid trips to the 2004 Malaysian Grand Prix, the grand prizes for the F1 Slipstream raffle promo. The two other grand prize winners were drawn at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex in Cebu last Saturday. The eight lucky grand prize winners get a three-day, two-night trip to the Sepang Circuit and 1,000 Malaysian ringgit in pocket money while hundreds of racing fans went home with original F1 premium items such as mountain bikes, jackets, backpacks, shirts and caps. "We take seriously our role as the premier educators of Formula 1 in the Philippines," said Edward Cruz, brand marketing manager of JT International (Phils.) Inc., the makers, importers and distributors of Mild Seven.

Dipolog booters stun Zamboangueños

DIPOLOG CITY—Host Dipolog City delighted the crowd by bringing down Zamboanga City, 2-0, Saturday at the start of the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 Western Mindanao subregional football finals at the San Andres Bonifacio College field here. Patrick Mamagas and Arnulfo Carpetanos struck in the 28th and 54th minutes to lift the Dipolog booters to victory. Zamboanga City bounced back with a 6-1 victory over Pagadian City later in the day. Abdna Al-Kyhaya and Christian Sera starred for the Zamboanga boys with two goals apiece while Marco Ryel and Edwin Envidiado came through with one marker each. The winner of the tourney will advance to the all-Mindanao finals.

LSGH, USC, Ateneo fives flex muscles

CEBU CITY—La Salle Greenhills, University of San Carlos and Ateneo de Davao swept their respective twin assignments Saturday to show the way in the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle national basketball finals at the USC South Grade School gym here. The NCR champion La Sallians downed Ateneo de Davao, 63-58, and ripped Pangasinan's St. Scholastica's Academy, 64-38, while USC beat St. Scholastica, 62-56, and Ateneo de Davao, 58-41, in the SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) competition. The Ateneans crushed Pangasinan's St. John's Cathedral School, 97-42, and University of Cebu, 65-49, in the Passerelle division. In other Passerelle matches, the Bedans walloped St. Johan, 116-64, but fell to University of Cebu, 66-74.

Cagayan cockers picked in 'Bakbakan'

THE SECOND of the two-part semifinals of Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby gets under way at the Big Dome today with more than 100 matches lined up. The first fight is set at 11 a.m. Back-to-back champion Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association tightened its grip on a possible third straight victory—and permanent ownership of the Bakbakan perpetual trophy plus Hall of Fame status—after one of its members, Eddie Solangon (Firepower San Luis entry) led last Saturday's semifinals as the only undefeated bet with a perfect score of five points. The Cagayan breeders fielded four entries and accounted for one 5- pointer and three 4-pointers. Finishing with 4.5 points apiece were Piwa Honey Lucban-II and RAF Blue Water. Among the other 4-pointers were Arnold Mendoza's H&H Tayug Armen and Boy Gamilla's CYR BMJ, both of which were bidding to duplicate Solangon's score only to lose their last matches against MS NU Red Hawk-2 and CVGBA Vertical Limit-CLU, respectively. The much-awaited 3-stag finals is set this Wednesday. Hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, Bakbakan 2003 is presented by Thunderbird Platinum, Casino Filipino and Derby Ace. Event partner is Supremo Feeds, while sponsors are Amtyl 500, Vitarich Panabong Feeds, Anima-Strath, Power-Pak, Belamyl, Progressive Poultry Supply, Hobby Master Incubators, RG Incubators and Washout Shampoo.

Shell Superbikes action in 'Byk 101'

THE RECENTLY concluded 2003 Shell Superbikes Championships will be featured in the upcoming second season of Byk 101, the first and only motorcycle lifestyle show on local television. To be aired at 10 p.m. this Wednesday over IBC 13, Byk 101 will devote its "Full Throttle" segment on Races 9 to 12 of the Shell Championships. In these races at the Batangas Racing Circuit, six-time champion Jolet Jao of the Shell Advance team shows why he's still the country's best superbike rider. Mike Chan, a former superbike rider himself, will host the show along with sexy actress Katya Santos. The "Full Throttle" segment is sponsored by Champion cigarettes, with the whole show presented by Shell Motorcycle Oils, Yamaha Motorcycles and BMW Motorrad. Other segments of the show are "Riding High" which focuses on celebrity riders, "Byk Babe" which features beautiful women, "Byk Watch" which is about the latest bikes and gear, and "Cruise Control" which summarizes all motorcycle-related events of the past week.

Pacquiao, Buhain, Dayrit in PSA Forum

A SPECIAL edition of the PSA Forum is slated tomorrow with world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Celso Dayrit sharing the limelight at the Manila Pavilion. This marks the first time Pacquiao will face local sports media since his sensational 11th technical knockout victory over Mexican warrior Marco Antonio Barrera in San Antonio, Texas, last week. Buhain and Dayrit's guesting in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor, meantime, is expected to center around the country's campaign in the 22nd Southeast Asian Games slated in Vietnam two weeks from now.

Holiday Hoop sets entry deadline

SAN Beda College, Claret School, St. Stephen's and Regina Papaya Naturals will compete in coach Eric Altamirano's "Holiday Hoop Challenge: The Next Level" as organizers have set the deadline of entries from schools, barangays and company-backed teams this Saturday. Altamirano, champion coach in the Philippine Basketball Association, yesterday said he was overwhelmed by the response of cage enthusiasts from all over the country. "We wish we can accommodate them all. This only shows that sports activities should never cease even during the holidays," Altamirano, Next Level national chair, said. The tournament will be held at the La Salle Greenhills gym. Teams must register with complete documents at the Brothers Burger outlet in Greenhills from 1-4 p.m. For inquiries, call Grandslam Sports and Entertainment at 628-6520.

Exec chess 9th leg pushes off Saturday

THE NINTH leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2003 will be held this Saturday at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. At stake in the one-day event, which starts at 1 p.m., are cash prizes and trophies. The Belgosa Medal of Chess Excellence plus a cash prize will be awarded to the top under-1800 performer. For inquiries, call the organizing Active Chess Center of Asia at 892-8759.

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CEREMONIAL TOSS: Two-time Fiba and many-time BAP president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II makes the ceremonial toss launching the Red Bull-sponsored Lito Puyat Cup basketball tournament Saturday at the FEU gym. Also in picture are organizer and Micaba head Cenon "Pipay" Buenaventura, UP's Ira Buyco and San Beda's Martin Antonio. Sixteen top collegiate teams, including UAAP and NCAA champions FEU and Letran, are vying in the cagefest.

Visayans battle Luzon cagers

GAMES TODAY *(FEU Gym)*
2 p.m.—Univ. of San Jose-R vs Univ. of Assumption
4 p.m.—Univ. of Visayas vs San Beda

THE LAST batch of "Sweet 16" protagonists take to the floor today at the resumption of the Champions' League basketball tournament at the Far Eastern University gym.

Luzon representative University of Assumption-Pampanga tackles University of San Jose Recoletos at 2 p.m. before San Beda College and Cebu champion University of Visayas collide at 4 p.m.

Assumption, with National Basketball League campaigner Welihado Duyag leading the charge, is expected to pull off some surprises in the tournament.

The Pelicans, who qualified for the tournament by beating University of Baguio in the northern final, can also count on hotshot Ruel Galura, peppery Marvin Yambao and slam-dunk artist Alexander Bognot.

Waiting in the wings to fight the winner of the Assumption-Recoletos tiff is NCRAA and UCAA title-holder St. Francis of Assisi.

NCAA power San Sebastian takes on either San Beda or University of Visayas at the start of Big Eight action tomorrow.

In the other half of the Big Eight, Ateneo takes on Holy Cross of Davao College and UAAP champion Far Eastern battles NCAA champion Letran on Dec. 1.

The first big casualty in the tournament sponsored by Pagcor, PCSO and adidas is last year's champion University of the East, which was stopped by PRISAA ruler Holy Cross last Monday.

The Warriors' early exit makes St. Francis and Far Eastern the favorites to seize the crown this year.

Nationals sweep SEAG buildup vs PBL clubs

THE PHILIPPINE team worked on new playing patterns but still got the same result—another easy decision.

Getting better and deadlier each game, the Nationals outlasted Montaña Pawnshop, 80-75, yesterday to complete a three-game sweep of their exhibition series in the 2003 PBL Platinum Cup.

All 11 players fielded by assistant coach Dong Vergeire shot two points or more as the Nationals left no doubt of their readiness to defend their title in the Vietnam SEA Games next month.

The Nationals, who had also beaten Viva Mineral Water-FEU (77-71) and Sunkist-UST (81-76), needed just an 18-4 run early in the fourth quarter to keep their unbeaten run intact.

"*Kapag nakikita naming bumubulusok na kami, may ibang tao naman kaming pinapapasok* (We tried different combinations every time we have a big lead). We have to know how they will respond to different situations," said Vergeire. "But as I said before, we're ready."

The Nationals will next meet the visiting Angola team on Saturday. The Angolans are arriving tonight.

In regular PBL play, Sunkist-UST caught Blustar Detergent napping to score a runaway 81-69 win.

Jemal Vizcarra led a well-balanced Sunkist attack with 18 points as the Tigers improved their record to 2-3 in a tie with Blustar and idle ICTSI-La Salle.

Marc Pingris and Dennis Madrid starred in that last-quarter attack that saw the Nationals take a commanding 76-62 lead.

The Jewels, led by Letran star Ronjay Enrile, closed in at 69-76, but Ricky Calimag and Pingris throttled the Montana rally.

James Yap, the Nationals' leading scorer, was used sparingly but still chipped in eight points.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	4	1
Montaña	3	1
Fash Liquid	3	2
Blustar	2	2
ICTSI	2	3
Sunkist	1	3
Viva Mineral	1	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(Pasig Sports Center)
1:45 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña Pawnshop
3:45 p.m.—Blustar vs Viva-FEU

Scores:

First Game

RP 80—Madrid 11, Sotto 11, Melencio 10, Calimag 10, De Ocampo 9, Yap 8, Cruz 7, Sotto 6, Salangsang 3, Alvarez 3, Gonzales 2.

MONTAÑA 75—Alfad 14, Mendoza 12, Enrile 9, Basco 7, David 7, Coronel 7, Sayon 6, Salvador 4, Guerroro 4, Baluyot 3, Rauschmayer 2, Magsumbol 0, Saniel 0, Manigo 0.

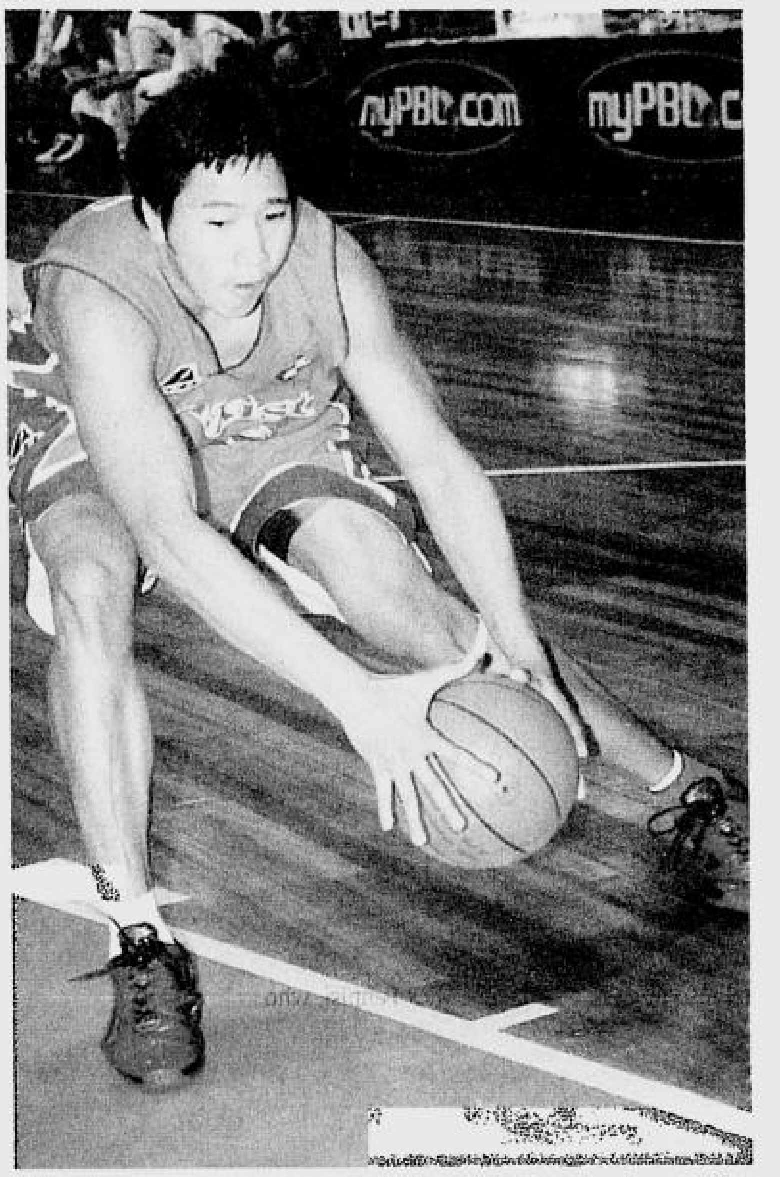
Quarters: 23-14; 37-38; 58-56; 80-75

Second Game

SUNKIST-UST 81—Vizcarra 18, Villamin 12, Franco 12, Mendoza 10, Compton 6, Espiritu 5, Santos 5, Orela 5, De Guzman 4, Santos 2.

BLUSTAR 69—Mesina 23, Pascual 10, Lopez 9, Gamboa 6, Mendez 5, David 4, De la Cuesta 4, Almeda 3, Prior 2, Gatombato 2, Junio 1, Victoria 0, Canaleta 0.

Quarters: 23-16, 41-32, 65-51; 81-69



POWER forward Bernzon Franco of Sunkist-UST grabs a loose ball in the game against Blustar. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Longshots dominate DOT Queen City race

By June Navarro

CEBU CITY—A slew of darkhorse entries topped yesterday the Department of Tourism's 2nd Queen City Run which started in Lapu-Lapu City and ended at the Asiatown I.T. Park in Lahug town.

Alley Quisay exploited the absence of defending champion and SEA Games gold medalist Eduardo Buenavista by ruling the men's 13.4-km race and pocketing the P50,000 champion's purse.

Quisay breasted the tape in 45 minutes and 4 seconds, just six seconds ahead of runner-up Crisanto Canilo while local marathoner Crisenciano Sabal, a De La Salle University student, wound up third, 45:18.

Quisay, Canilo and Sabal stunned the favored bets who failed to land in the money list, among them seasoned marathoners Rogelio Reli of University of Cebu, Tirso Bamaybay, Christy Sevillano and Arvin Loberamis.

Canilo bagged P25,000 while Sabal won P12,500 in the event graced by Department of Tourism secretary Richard Gordon.

"The Queen City Run is one activity that will definitely boost sports tourism in Cebu. We hope that more activities similar to this one are organized here and in other provinces to help boost tourism in the country," said Gordon.

In the distaff side, Liza Yambao dethroned last year's champion, Ailyn Tolentino of Cagayan de Oro, by crossing the line in 55:13.

Yambao, who also fattened her bank account with the first prize P50,000, nosed out Marigen Carlos (55:33) and Tolentino (55:34), respectively.

Buenavista, who clocked 39:50 to win the event's initial staging last year, begged off as the country's top long-distance runner is in the thick of preparations for the Vietnam SEA Games next month. Top Cebuano runner Bowen Montecillo likewise did not participate.

Gordon also joined the race and finished alongside Mila Mercado, a quadriplegic on a wheelchair being pushed by husband Wawel.

"I salute Wawel and Mila and other differently-abled participants for showing resiliency and assertiveness, two traits this country direly needs," said Gordon.

SL Tour bets test Norman course

FAST shaping up as a beauty in its own right, the Norman course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, will be up for scrutiny when it shares stellar billing in the final leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour next month.

The friendly character of the Norman course has made it a favorite of players of various handicaps. A couple of months after its grand opening, the course is posting numbers approximating those of Eagle Ridge's three other courses in terms of daily rounds.

Not too long for the average player and not too easy either for the good ones with its rolling fairways and the newly introduced Silica gel bunker concept, the Norman course will be hosting the first round of the Sta. Lucia Tour on Dec. 5.

It will give the Sta. Lucia Tour campaigners from the south the chance to compare the Norman course with the Aoki, Faldo and the dreaded Dye layouts they are more familiar with.

Eagle Ridge will also open new facilities for bowling, swimming, billiards, tennis, badminton and basketball at the Family Clubhouse.

Only recently, close to 300 played in the Architects Classic. Eagle Ridge also played host to the Rotary Centennial, the Barako Cup of the Figaro Foundation Corp. and the Pugad Lawin tourneys.

Meanwhile, Japanese Fujio Goto and Shinichi Ogihara resumed their rivalry for Class A supremacy in the monthly tourney for November, with Goto winning with a gross of 78.

The other division champs were Manuel Comia (Class B), Rae Manaloto (Class C), Edwin Cellino (Class D) and Imelda Agustin (ladies). Goto also took the longest drive award and Manuel Mayo the nearest-the-pin prize.

FOUNDERS GOLF

Tanchuan, partner best of the lot

JERRY Tanchuan and guest partner Florentino Zapanta Jr. made a big splurge at the Palmer course to nip the all-female team of Cynthia Antonio and Beachie Abiera for the overall crown in the Founders Golf Invitational at The Orchard Golf and Country Club recently.

Tanchuan and Zapanta posted 84 points at the newly re-greened Palmer course and 72 points at the Player course for a 12-under-par aggregate of 156 under the Stableford system of scoring.

Grabbing the other half of the two major awards in the seventh edition of the 36-hole tourney, considered as the biggest member-guest tournament in the country in terms of participation, were Dan Salvador and Bob Horan, who took the low gross plum with their 71-65-136.

Antonio and Abiera left their own mark in the event that drew a record field of 276 teams by finishing second overall, losing by a mere stroke with their 80-75-155.

They eventually settled for Class A honors, pulling off the most lopsided win among division winners as they wound up five strokes ahead of Chito Servida and Antonio del Rosario.

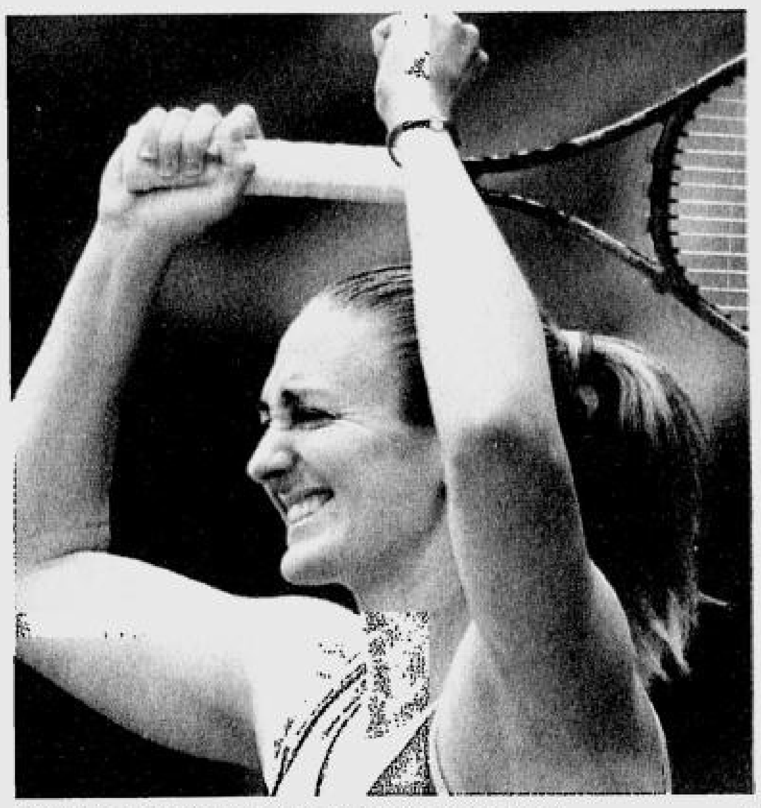
Alex Honrado and Edgar Joselito Arceo topped Class B, Francisco Figura and Edgar Ti prevailed in Class C, and Roberto Veluz and Arnaldo Bautista were champions in Class D.

Club chair Vicente Santos, president Conrad Benitez and Luis Villa-Abrille, chair of the Founders Cup committee, handed out the trophies to the winners.

Globe Telecoms, Ford Alabang, Sta. Lucia Realty Dev't, Inc. and The Golf Library served as major sponsors while Fedex, Sta. Elena Properties, The Turf Co., Concepcion Carrier Air-conditioning, Kubota Agro-Industrial Machinery Phils., Dynamic Sports and Taylor Made-Adidas were special sponsors.

The runners-up in their respective categories were Antonio Abad III and Virgilio Domingo in Class B, Javier Felipe Quintos and Enrique Olives in Class C, and Robert Hsiao and Vic Cunanan in Class D. *Jong Arcano*

Maurensmo, Pierce give France lead in Fed Cup



PIERCE celebrates her victory against Shaughnessy. AP

MOSCOW—Amelie Mauresmo overpowered American Lisa Raymond, 6-4, 6-3, and Mary Pierce outlasted Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-3, 3-6, 8-6, giving France a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five Fed Cup finals against the United States.

The US losses—on team captain Billie Jean King's 60th birthday—make each match Sunday must-win. After the reverse singles, Raymond and Martina Navratilova, who at 47 is undefeated in 38 Fed Cup matches, are scheduled to play doubles against Pierce and Emilie Loit.

One break in the eighth game was enough for Pierce to take the first set against world No. 17 Shaughnessy. The American surged back in the second set, breaking Pierce to go ahead, 5-3, and then ending it with an ace in the next game after Pierce turned aside two set points.

Down 3-4 in the decisive set, Shaughnessy came back from love-30 with an ace and two service winners, but Pierce sent her next return down the line to even it at deuce before the American fell behind and lost the game with a forehand long.

Serving for the match at 5-3, Pierce surrendered three straight points and Shaughnessy broke back with a blazing return, then held serve to even it at 5-5 and played past three match points in a nail-biting contest on her next serve to make it 6-6.

But Pierce persevered in what she called "a great battle," coming back from break point to win a six-deuce marathon game and then breaking Shaughnessy, first forcing a match point with a precisely targeted backhand and then winning it when the American netted a backhand shot.

"She was a little more aggressive," Shaughnessy said. "She went for it more than I did, and that's what it takes."

Mauresmo and Raymond opened the first match by trading breaks, but Mauresmo took a 2-1 lead when Raymond double-faulted at deuce. Mauresmo held in the next game with two aces and closed out the set with two love games. *AP*

Letdown

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS an avid follower of the Red Bull team for many years, I suppose I can complain about its shortcomings by expressing my profound disappointment over its failure to make the playoffs again, losing badly to arch rival Talk 'N Text, 81-95, in their knockout game for a semifinal berth in the PBA Reinforced Conference last Wednesday at the Philsports Arena.

How on earth could Red Bull—the No. 1 team after the elimination series—finish out of the title race? What on earth is wrong with the Barakos?

Much as I admire the players of coach Yeng Guiao, I am bothered and bewildered when the team played below form, performing below expectations. Might they not be in top physical and mental shape to win the do-or-die encounter?

I am frustrated with the poor showing of MVP Willie Miller, a consistent scorer in the NCAA, PBL and MBA, who could only score two points against TNT that night. He also missed three 3-point shots—his only attempts that evening—and failed to put up a decent defense, allowing his men to score with abandon. Miller also committed six turnovers.

Also a big letdown were Mick Pennisi, who could only hit 1-for-6, a far cry from his usual shooting form, and Davonn Harp, who had a bad night by hitting a measly 5-of-11 attempts.

"The players did not know how to execute the plays, they were out of focus," Kirk Collier, the American team trainer, was quoted as saying. Collier was among those who tendered their courtesy resignation to team owner George Chua after that subpar performance on Wednesday. It marked the three straight conferences that Red Bull failed to hurdle the playoffs despite a strong finish in the elimination series.

Coach Yeng Guiao said their resignation was necessary to give the owner a free hand in deciding the future of the team and, at the same time, allow management to call off their contract if possible. "We feel that we have to give our boss, Mr. (George) Chua, the freedom to re-evaluate and revamp the team based on our performance," said the 43-year-old Guiao, who still has two years on his contract.

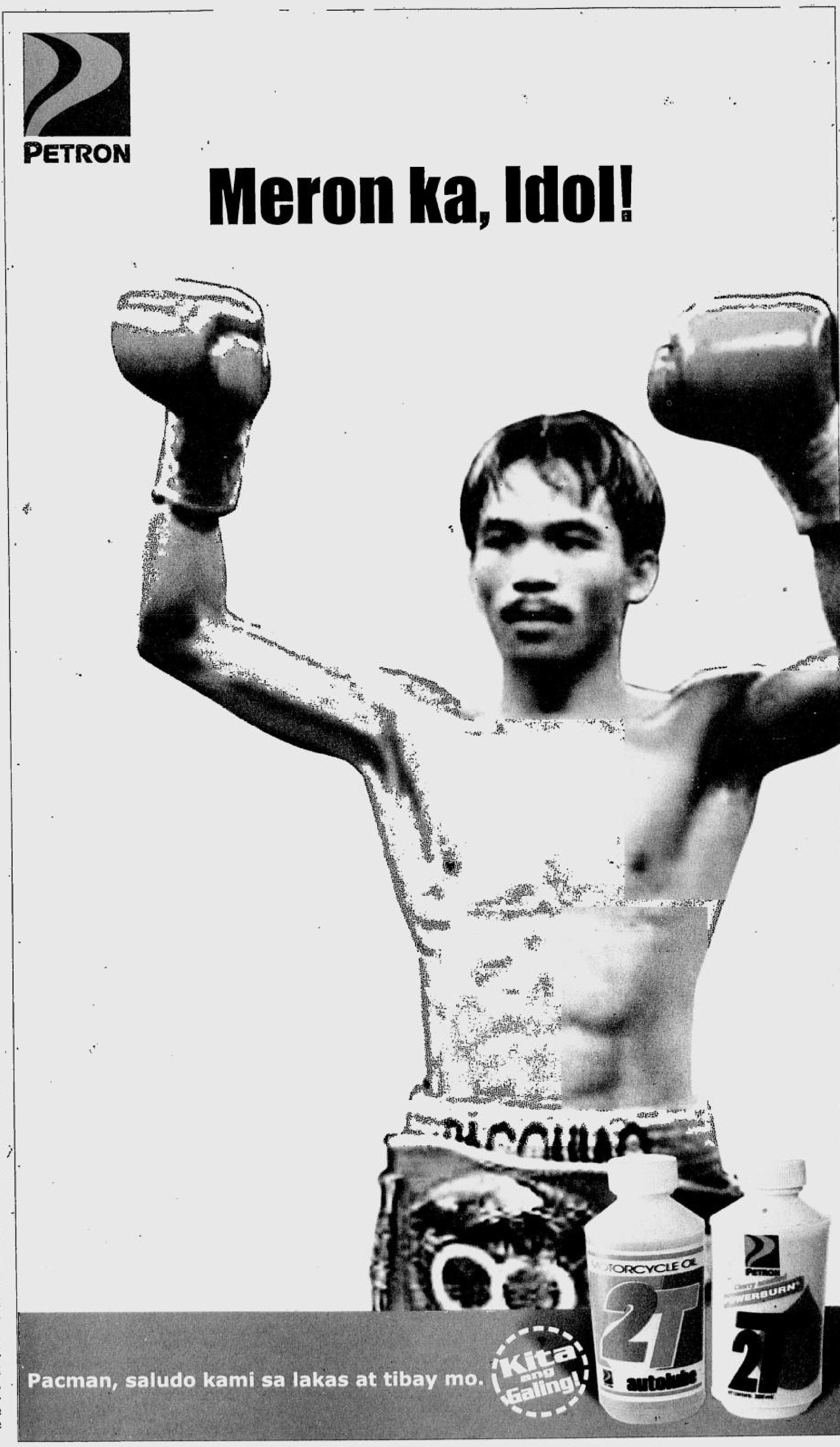
Since joining the PBA in 2000, the Red Bull management has always strived to make the team come up with the highest level of performance and live up to its commitment to the PBA and its fans. As a matter of fact, Red Bull won back-to-back Commissioner's Cup championships in 2001 and 2002.

Meanwhile, Jimwell Torion, who was suspended for eight months—the longest ever in the 28-year history of the PBA—and fined a record-high P70,000 for breaking the nose of TNT's Jimmy Alapag, should ask for a reconsideration by appealing that the penalties were too harsh. That PBA Commissioner Noli Eala should punish Torion is understandable, but many say a more humane and lighter punishment should suffice.

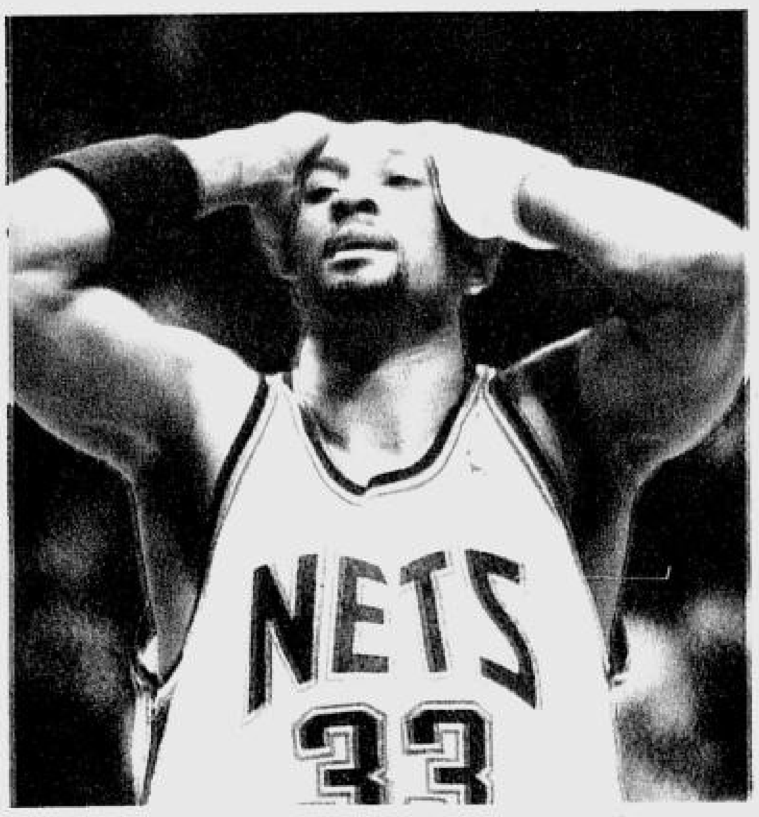
After all, Torion had offered no excuses for his misdeed and sought forgiveness from Alapag, the fans and his team. However, Torion should learn his lesson from this costly mistake because, in serving the eight-month suspension covering the entire transition season from February to September next year, he stands to lose his monthly pay of P275,000, totaling at least P2.2 million.

If memory serves, Rudy "The Destroyer" Distrito of Sunkist held the longest suspension period after he was sacked for four months for committing a deliberate foul on Alaska's Jeffrey Cariaso in 1995. Formula Shell's Jay Mendoza was fined P40,000—then the highest—and suspended for three games for starting a free-for-all when he intentionally elbowed Ginebra's Wilmer Ong on the head in the closing minutes of the match which Shell won, 84-63. Maynard Ballecer, the referee who was closest to Mendoza and Ong when the incident happened, was suspended for two games, while the two other referees—Ernie de Leon and Jun Lansang—were banned for one game each for not being able to be "always on top of the situation."

"We know that Torion is a good point guard, but we are not condoning the misconduct of our players no matter how good they are," said team manager Tony Chua in a recent interview, stressing that "Red Bull will always take appropriate action against its erring players because management believes its players should serve as role models for the community."



Peterson's free throw lifts Toronto past New Jersey



MOURNING reacts after teammate Kerry Kittles fouled Peterson following a jump ball with 0.8 second left to go. REUTERS

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Morris Peterson's free throw with 0.8 seconds left Saturday gave the Toronto Raptors an 81-80 victory over the New Jersey Nets, who were without Jason Kidd.

The Raptors let a double-digit lead evaporate but recovered for their first road win in six tries this season.

Vince Carter finished with 21 points and nine assists, and he beat Kenyon Martin on a jump ball with 3.1 seconds to play.

Martin scored 26 points and the teammate with whom he feuded in practice Thursday, Alonzo Mourning, poured in a season-high 15. But it wasn't enough for a Nets team without its leader, Kidd, who has a sore left knee. 83

In Atlanta, Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 26 points, the Hawks held LeBron James to 3-for-16 shooting and Atlanta sent Cleveland to its 29th straight road loss, 92-83.

Jason Terry added 19 points for the Hawks, who had lost three of four.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cavaliers, who fell to 0-8 away from home this season.

James, who finished with 15 points after hitting nine of 10 free throws, was 1-for-12 from the floor after his 6-foot leaner bounced hard off the backboard with Atlanta leading 73-66 early in the fourth quarter.

After the game, Cleveland coach Paul Silas and reserve guard Ira Newble got into a heated argument that spilled into the hallway. Neither would comment on what it was about.

In New York, Shandon Anderson replaced the injured Allan Houston in the starting lineup and scored 20 points in New York's 99-88 victory over Philadelphia.

Anderson reached 20 points for only the fourth time in his three seasons with the Knicks, providing a much-needed offensive boost on a night when Keith Van Horn also sat out because of an injury. *AP*

NBA RESULTS

Toronto 81, New Jersey 80; Atlanta 92, Cleveland 83; New York 99, Philadelphia 88; Minnesota 103, LA Clippers 91; Dallas 115, Denver 101; Phoenix 100, Miami 98. *AP*

O'Neal doubtful starter

O'NEAL

EL SEGUNDO, California—Shaquille O'Neal missed practice Saturday because of a strained right calf and might have to sit out the Los Angeles Lakers' next game.

Team spokeswoman Alison Bogli said O'Neal arrived before practice Saturday to receive treatment and is listed as day-to-day. She said a decision on whether or not O'Neal plays Sunday against the Memphis Grizzlies will probably be made at game-time.

O'Neal had 15 points and seven rebounds in 25 minutes before leaving Friday night's 101-94 victory over Chicago in the third quarter because of the injury.

Karl Malone, hampered by a sore left hamstring, practiced and received treatment Saturday and is expected to play against the Grizzlies, who beat the visiting Lakers, 105-95, earlier this month.

Bogli said it's possible Slava Medvedenko will be activated from the injured list before the game against Memphis. Medvedenko hasn't played this season because of a bruised left heel. *AP*

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Lhuillier cagers gain 'twice' edge in NBL Regional Cup

GAMES TODAY (*F. Aquino Staduim, an Pablo*)
4 p.m.—Spring-SP vs MayniLA
6 p.m.—Ilocos Sur vs Pampanga

M. LHUILLIER Kwarta Padala-Cebu nailed down two more wins Friday and Saturday to firm up its hold on top spot in the 2003 Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament.

The Cebuano Jewellers sparkled in the final period to whip Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo 7 Lakers, 91-85, at the Florante Aquino Stadium Friday.

The following day, the Cebuanos edged Restolax/Mail & More MayniLA, 75-73, at the University of Manila gym.

With the two victories, the Cebuanos improved their record to 6-0 and assured themselves of a twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals of the tourney sponsored by Panasonic Phils., Beer na Beer, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, BJ Star Logistics and Molten Basketball.

Elimination action resumes today at the Aquino Stadium in San Pablo with the Lakers facing MayniLA at 4 p.m. and the Ilocos Sur Snipers taking on the Pampanga Raging Buls at 6.

James Laygo, Danny Aying and Aldrich Reyes sparked a 15-3 spurt in the final quarter to help the Cebuanos pull away from a 68-68 third-quarter tie after they had trailed 18-23 and 50-51 in the first half.

Spring-San Pablo came close to pulling off the upset win with the help of new recruits Robin Mendoza and Melvin Taguines.

Bruce Dacia, Reyes and Ruben de la Rosa played key roles in the Cebuanos' scary triumph over the Manilans.

Lhuillier led 75-72 with 30.3 seconds to go, but MayniLA threatened at 73-75 with 8.7 ticks left when Ernani Epondulan sank a charity on Dela Rosa's technical foul. However, Jonathan Serrano muffed two attempts, and Dela Rosa quickly grabbed the rebound to end the game.

First Game

Scores:

LHUILLIER 81—Laygo 17, reyes 15, Aying, Lumantas 11, Dacia 8, Dela Rosa 7, Canoneo 4, Cantona 4, Ocanada 4, Enriquez 3, Rodriguez 3, Caputolan 2, Smith 0.

SPRING-SP 75—Limbo 20, Reyes 15, Manuel 14, Habelito 11, Menor 7, Mendoza 6, Taguines 5, Crisostomo 4, Tolentino 2, Maghirang 1, Alberto 0.

Quarters: 18-23, 50-51, 68-68, 81-75

Second Game

LHUILLIER 75—Dacia 14, Ocanada 12, Lumantas 11, Dela Rosa 9, Reyes 8, Aying 6, Smith 5, Rodriguez 5, Enriquez 2, Canoneo 2, Cantona 1, Caputolan 0, Laygo 0.

MAYNILA 73—Epondulan 18, Serrano 16, Corbin 8, Malabanan 8, Sanz 8, Salvador 4, Garcia 2, Buendia 2, Mallari 2, Ricafuerte 2, caceres 2, Manucat 1, Cristobal 0.

Quarterscores: 23-15, 43-34, 58-57, 75-73

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Puerto Princesa hosts Air21 cycling challenge

PUERTO Princesa will give sports tourism another boost when it hosts for the first time a two-day cycling spectacle featuring some of the country's best riders and the city's finest pedal-pushers.

Dubbed the Air21 Puerto Princesa Cycling Challenge, the races consist of a 160-km massed start race on an out-and-back course on Nov. 29 and a 120-km race over a 6-km circuit the next day.

Air21, chaired by Bert Lina who also heads the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines or PhilCycling, the national association for the sport, is again bankrolling the event which will cap a year marked with the revival of the fabled Tour Pilipinas.

Besides Air21, also backing up the race managed by the Philippine National Cycling Association headed by former Tour champion and original Eagle of the Mountain Paquito Rivas are FedEx and Mail and More, with Caltex, BPI-MS and Lipovitan as supporters.

According to Tour Pilipinas executive director Mar Mendoza, Puerto Princesa, through Mayor Edward Hagedorn, has enthusiastically geared up for the races which will be staged in the city that pioneered in what is now called sports tourism.

Mayol confident in Dec. 7 fight vs OPBF champion

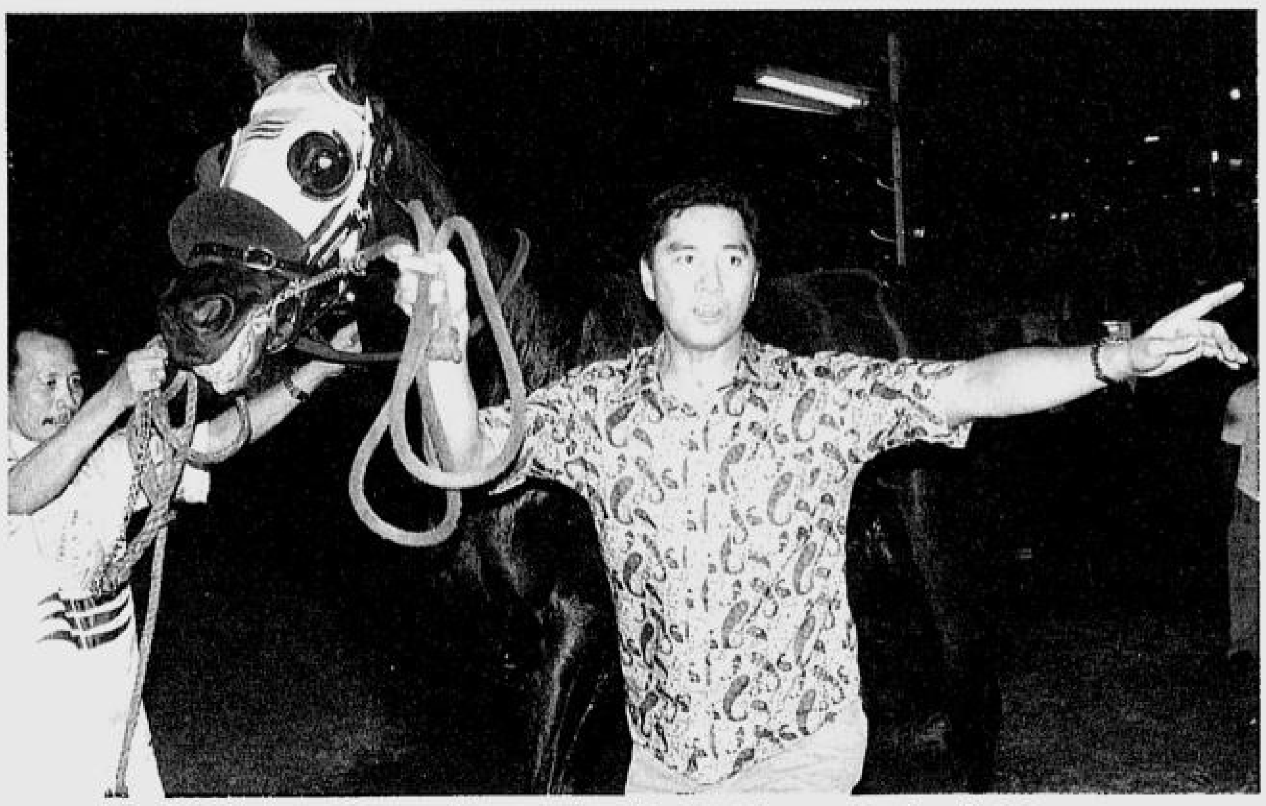
CEBU City—Philippine miniflyweight boxing champion and WBC No. 4 Rodel Mayol yesterday expressed confidence he will be able to wrest the Oriental-Pacific Boxing Federation crown from Genki Ohnaka when they tangle on Dec. 7 in Fukuoka, Japan.

Mayol, 22, fighting out of the Stonewall Boxing Club here, is considered the country's second best pound-for-pound fighter, next only to world featherweight king Manny Pacquiao.

A former five-time national amateur champion, Mayol is unbeaten in 14 pro fights with 11 knockouts.

"I'm in the best shape of my life," Mayol said.

Trainer Carl Peñalosa Jr. said Mayol is getting special training to contain Ohnaka. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



ESGUERRA acknowledges the cheers of the crowd as he guides Wind Blown to the winner's circle. RUDY ESPERAS

Wind Blown . . .

From page A32

gal na lahat ang pressure. *Masaya ako at nagtagumpay siya,"* said trainer Nestor Manalang, who got a big hug from Esguerra at the awarding rites for superbly conditioning Wind Blown.

Esguerra, who was accompanied by wife Malou when he received the huge winner's trophy, also announced that Wind Blown would gallop for the last time in front of his adoring fans on Dec. 7 during the Wind Blown Racing Festival, also at Santa Ana.

"That racing event is for all those who supported Wind Blown. *Sa mga* fans, my fellow horseowners and breeders and all members of the racing sectors, *para po sa inyo yan,"* added Esguerra, who acquired Wind Blown from bosom friend Sandy Javier three years ago.

"I'm so proud of that horse. Every time he wins, *parang nanalo rin ako.* He's the best I've ever bred," said Javier, the winningest breeder in the Marho racefest.

Golden Ballet salvaged second, nipping Lyonnais at the wire, while Hyperbid came in fourth. Staunch Ally arrived fifth while Silver Story was sixth and last.

Wind Blown, who ended his brilliant career with 36 wins (22 stakes races) in 49 runs and a record more than P18 million in earnings, covered the 2,050-meter contest in 2:13 flat (30.5-24.5-27-24-26.5).

Earlier, Security Master produced the day's biggest reversal when he edged heavy pick West Bound in the 3-Year-Old Colts.

The Myther Buñag and Tony Eleazar-owned colt, expertly guided by Virgilio Camañero Jr., also bankrolled P600,000.

"I knew he'll bounce back and I'm so happy he won in the Breeders' Cup," said Buñag, whose horse had been written off by many following a series of setbacks.

In the other major race, Empire King handily topped the Juvenile Colts to complete a Mitra Cup-Breeders' Cup double.

PSA Cup slated Nov. 30 at SLLP

RACING action returns this week to the San Lazaro Leisure Park where two stakes races are scheduled on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Hostilities start tomorrow (Tuesday) with night racing and continues through Sunday during which the Japan Racing Association (JRA) Cup and Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Cup will be held.

"We would like to invite all racing fans to join us for another week of top-notch racing competition," said MJCI executive vice president lawyer Alfonso "King" Reyno III.

The JRA Cup is an annual event fostering improved relations between the influential JRA, regulator of the world's biggest racing jurisdiction, and the operational race clubs in the country.

An added purse of P200,000 has been allocated by MJCI for the said race, which may serve as the final tune-up start for majority of this year's Presidential Gold Cup hopefuls.

Among the invited runners for the said 1,600-meter track encounter include 10 Gold Cup starters—West Bound, Free Wind, Golden Ballet, Lyonnais, Silver Story, Material Maker, Success Story, High Octane, Perfect Storm and Mica's Magic, as well as Security Master and classy imports Midnight Lady, Absolute Charmer and Catwalk Pia.

Meanwhile, a similarly impressive field of runners is also expected to battle it out in the second edition of the PSA Cup.

Chinese lifters dominate meet

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—China won 32 gold medals at the Weightlifting World Championships, twice as many as second-place Turkey, as the competition concluded.

The Chinese women won five of the seven weight classes and set nine of the 11 world records at the competition, the first in North America since 1978. Thailand and Ukraine also won women's golds.

Meiyuan Ding, Shichun Shang and Chunhong Liu set world marks, as did Hanna Batsiushka of Belarus and Natalia Skakun of Ukraine. *AP*

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SPORTS

Wind Blown makes history in last race

Security Master shoots down West Bound

By Edwin Villanueva

WIND Blown wove his racing magic for the last time, winning the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic for an unprecedented three straight years last night and making history in the process.

The towering galloper owned by Hermie Esguerra ruled the event by an overpowering six lengths, igniting thunderous jubilation from the jam-packed crowd at the Santa Ana Park just as star jockey Jeffril Zarate sent him flashing past the payoff wire in full gallop.

"His fans asked for it and they got it. Thank you, thank you. *Umaapaw ang tuwa ko,*" gushed Esguerra, who later announced that it was officially the final run of Wind Blown.

"Yes, he'll now be retired to stud," the popular Plaridel, Bulacan businessman confirmed. "There's no more left to prove as far as his racing career is concerned but I do hope that he would duplicate his greatness as a stallion."

Zarate muscled Wind Blown in front when the gates opened as the Hazm-Wind in my Hair progeny loomed big to carry the march.

With only Lyonnais giving a challenge, Wind Blown easily swooped on the outside to take the lead for good nearing the far turn and stormed away en route to the historic farewell run.

"*Talagang ibinigay nya na lahat. Wala po akong kakaba kaba na sakyan siya kasi buong-buo ang diskarte ko. Siya na yata ang pinakamagaling na nasakyan ko,*" said Zarate, who saluted the crowd just as Wind Blown came in under the wire and then egged them on to cheer on for the champ.

The victory, worth P600,000, enabled Wind Blown to become the first horse to top the Classic, highlight event of the annual Marho Breeders' Cup, for three consecutive years.

"My sleepless nights are over. *Tang-*

WIND/A31

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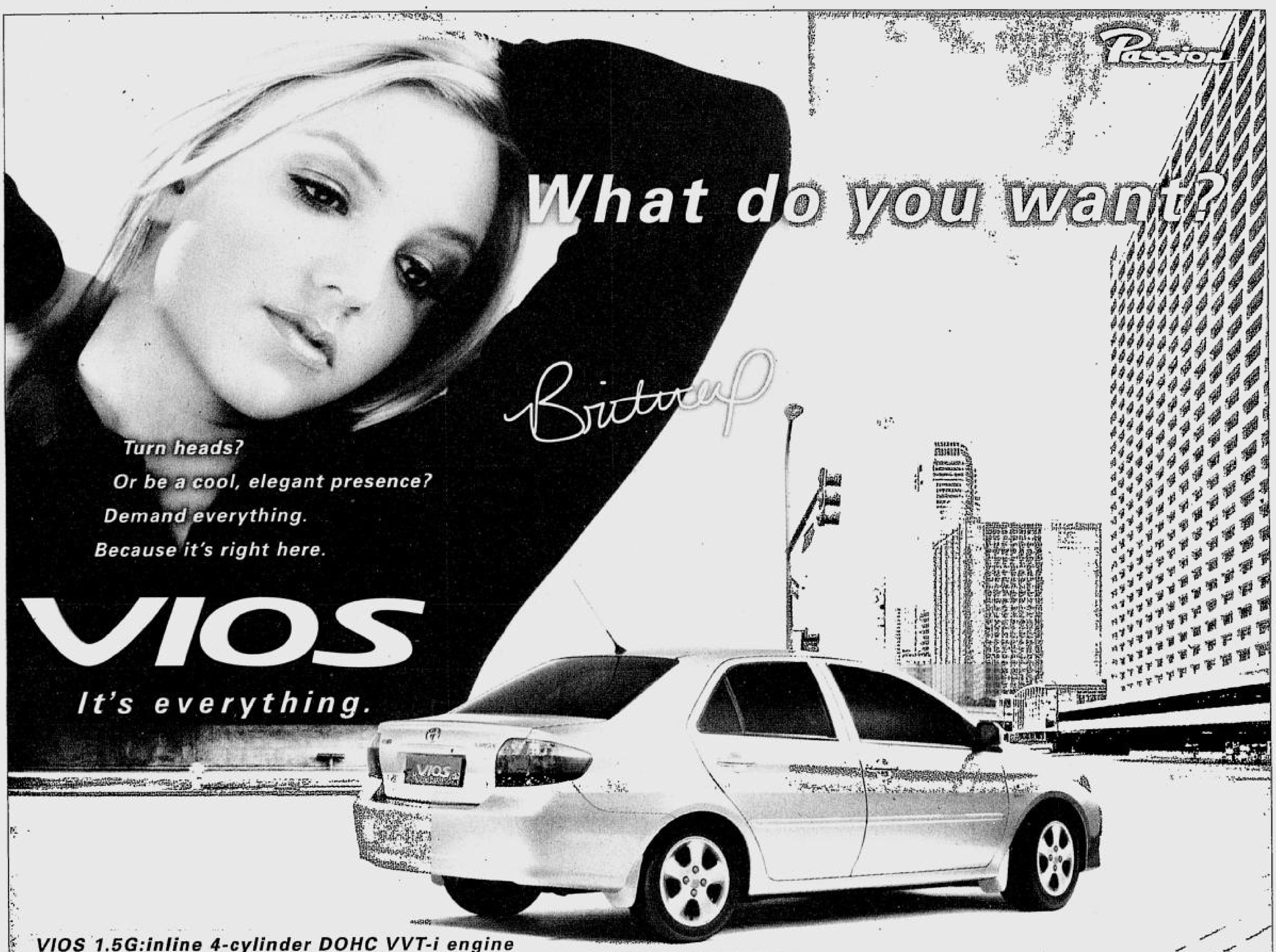

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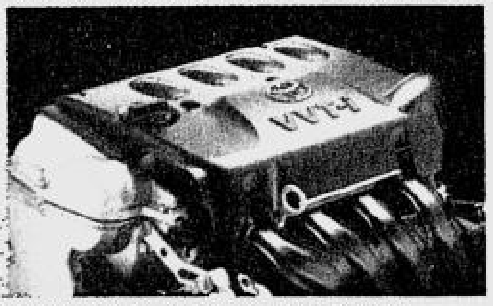

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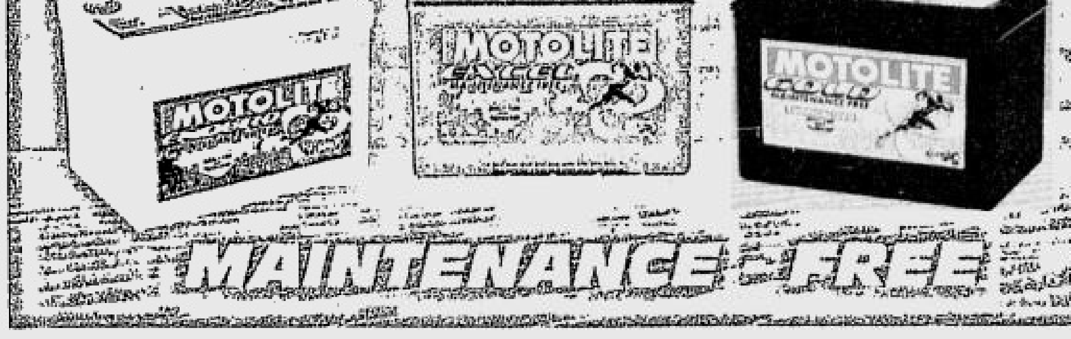

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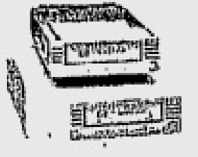
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Peso weakness, interest rate volatility seen

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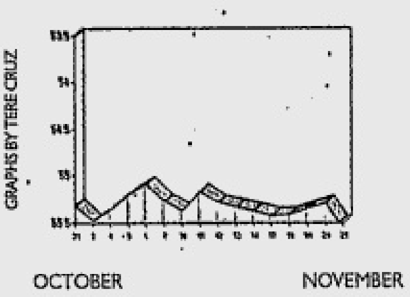


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

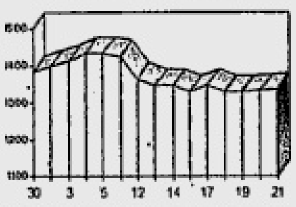
P 55.585 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2003

¥ 108.90 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2003

GOLD: $394.50-395.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 21, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Fresh uncertainties seen weighing down stocks

THE STOCK market is seen to trade lower this week due to fresh uncertainties triggered by the resurgence of kidnappings and the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho on Friday.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange closed at 1,334.30 on Friday, down by 11.23 points or 0.84 percent from a week ago as local stocks consolidated after the release of third quarter corporate results.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said renewed security concerns following the recent wave of kidnappings in the metropolis and Camacho's resignation were weighing down investor sentiment.

"Chartwise, Friday's close at 1,334.303 continues to highlight that a near-term correction in prices is in progress. Expect further weakness toward the 1,270-1,300 levels, in the week ahead," Ravelas said.

"Any rally during the coming week is viewed as a technical rebound and is expected to be limited to the 1,370-1,380 level," he said.

Other traders said Camacho's resignation, which dragged down the peso even nearer to its historical low, would shake up the stock market this week.

FRESH/ B6

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO could weaken further to 55.70 to a dollar, spreads on Philippine dollar bonds could surge by another 15 basis points, and local interest rates could rise by as much as 50 basis points in today's treasury bill auction.

These were some of the scenarios that the Macapagal administration faces his week following the sudden resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last Friday, a move that shocked financial markets and sent the peso on a tailspin.

"There is no doubt we would continue to have some volatility in the coming days in the foreign exchange and in (Philippine debt paper) spreads. The important thing is to assure investors that economic and fiscal programs are on track," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The peso fell and closed at a fresh historic low of 55.585 to $1 last Friday after Camacho announced his resignation just before foreign exchange trading closed at 4 p.m.

At the same time, spreads on Philippine dollar bonds more commonly known as ROPs (Republic of the Philippines) surged by 11 to 30 basis points last Friday.

Spreads reflect the premium investors seek in return for perceived risks. As risks rise, the spreads widen and unless addressed immediately, it would mean higher borrowing costs for the government in the future.

"The weekend should provide time for market players to digest the news of Camacho's impending departure. There could still be some reaction this week but it should be temporary," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco said there would also be continued pressure on the 91-day treasury bill rate to go up today, which could mean increasing cost of local borrowings for the national government. The 91-day rate averaged at 6.262 percent two weeks ago.

A trader said the government could be forced to reject all bids in today's treasury bill auction to show the market that it remained in control. Banks would try to push treasury yields up by more than 50 basis points.

"The market will take a defensive position in view of the changes at the DOF. But it should normalize by the end of the week if not earlier. I think the peso would fall to 55.70 at the worst," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

Friday's peso closing broke the Oct. 27, 2003, record closing of 55.50 to $1. But the peso has yet to beat the all-time low under the Estrada administration. The peso fell to an all-time low of 55.79 on January 19, 2001, but closed at P47.50 the same day when Estrada finally left Malacañang.

Another trader said the government should work on the image of Camacho's replacement, Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong, who was designated by Malacañang as officer-in-charge of the finance department for the duration of the term of this administration.

PESO/ B5

BSP readying circular to regulate money-changers

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is preparing a circular that would place big money changers and non-bank remittance centers under its regulation in keeping with the demand of the Financial Action Task Force to plug all potential outlets of money laundering.

A central bank official said the BSP has drafted a circular detailing the supervision of money and remittance shops but it has yet to be presented to the policy-making Monetary Board.

The regulation of the loosely organized money changers has been stalled by the issue on whether the BSP or the Securities and Exchange Commission should cover these firms. The BSP and the SEC are both members of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The FATF has ordered a tighter licensing, regulation and monitoring of money-changers as these businesses all over the world have been suspected of being conduits for illegally acquired funds.

Regulation of money changers would boost the Philippines' bid to finally get out of the FATF's blacklist by next year.

A central bank official admitted the BSP might be better equipped to supervise the money shops but monetary authorities have yet to fully endorse such a plan.

"The essence of regulating money changers is in relation to reporting of suspicious and covered transactions under the AMLA (Anti Money Laundering Act)," Bangko Sentral general counsel Juan de Zuñiga Jr. said.

Covered transactions under the AMLA involve an amount exceeding P500,000 within one banking day. Suspicious transactions may involve any amount provided there seems to be no underlying legal or trade obligation for the transaction.

Under the law's implementing rules, covered institutions must report to the AMLC all covered and suspicious transactions within five working days from the occurrence of the transactions.

Another official said the BSP could also include in the regulation the informal channels through which some overseas Filipino workers send money to their families.

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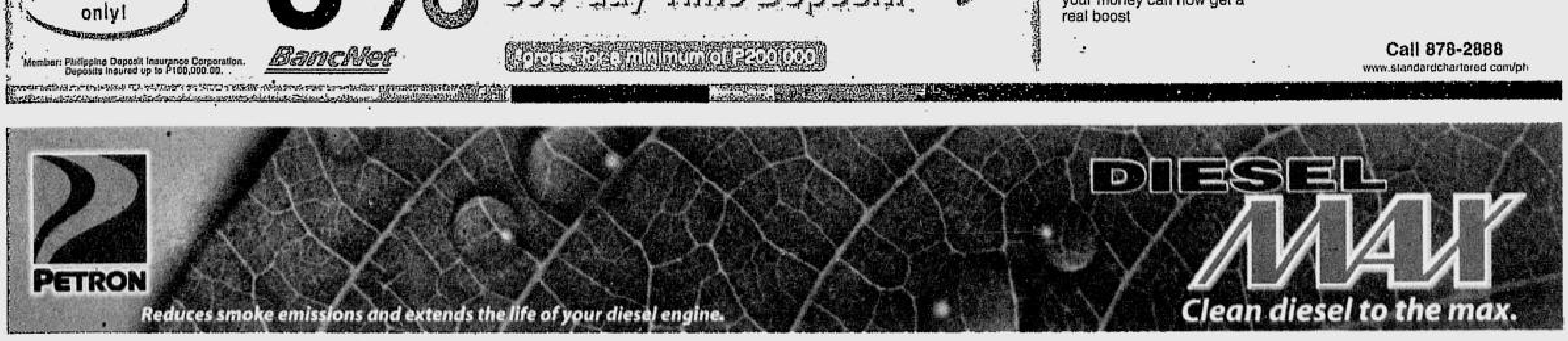
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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THERE comes a time in a man's life [illegible] when duty calls, he cannot just answer duty with "the subscriber cannot be reached."

That was the message you (i.e. nosy reporter) would get in the past couple of days on the mobile phone of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho.

The man resigned from the Cabinet, and I had this sneaky feeling he would not answer my calls, although I rang him up only a million times in five minutes.

* * *

BUT it is also possible that the Whiz did not want to hurt Gloriaetta any further by talking to media. But whether or not he talks, his resignation already hurt this cute administration of Gloriaetta in different ways.

Not the least of them is the impression his departure creates in the public mind. And that is, even the captain is jumping off the sinking ship.

That surely hurts Gloriaetta's already poor chances in 2004. By tradition, the Whiz as finance secretary is the captain of this cute administration's economic boat.

Instantly, according to reports quoting analysts, the capital markets reacted to the announcement of his resignation, and they reacted badly, meaning, negatively, which was in a way actually positive. Get it?

* * *

OKAY, again—the markets anticipated uncertainties in the markets, meaning, in themselves, as a result of the resignation, and the same anticipated uncertainties were only to be expected, precisely because they were being anticipated.

The departure of the Whiz must have already created a lot of confusion, i.e. uncertainties in the markets, that even before it happens officially at the end of this month, some market analysts already turned psychotic.

Let me try: The business community probably likes what the Whiz is doing, so that the people there will miss him terribly.

* * *

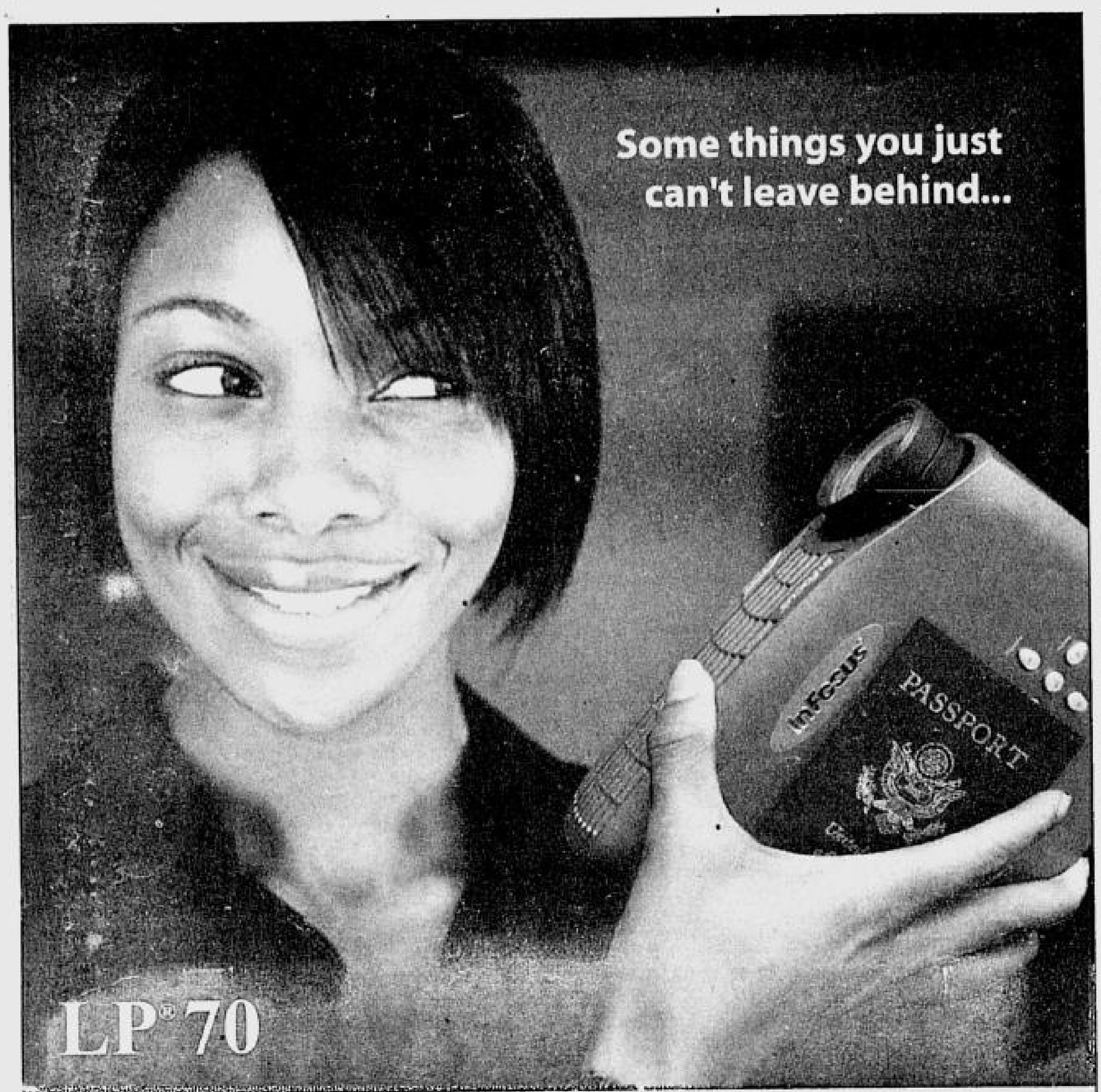
INDEED the Whiz gave this cute administration a good deal of credibility. His resignation should only reflect on Gloriaetta's ability to keep good people—or the lack of it.

Word already got around last June that the Whiz wanted out. At that time, it was said that he would be gone in a couple of months, by August or by September at the latest.

Luckily for Gloriaetta, but unfortunately for the rest of us, the Oakwood mutiny happened. The Whiz delayed his resignation.

Still, despite the happy exten-

TILES/B4



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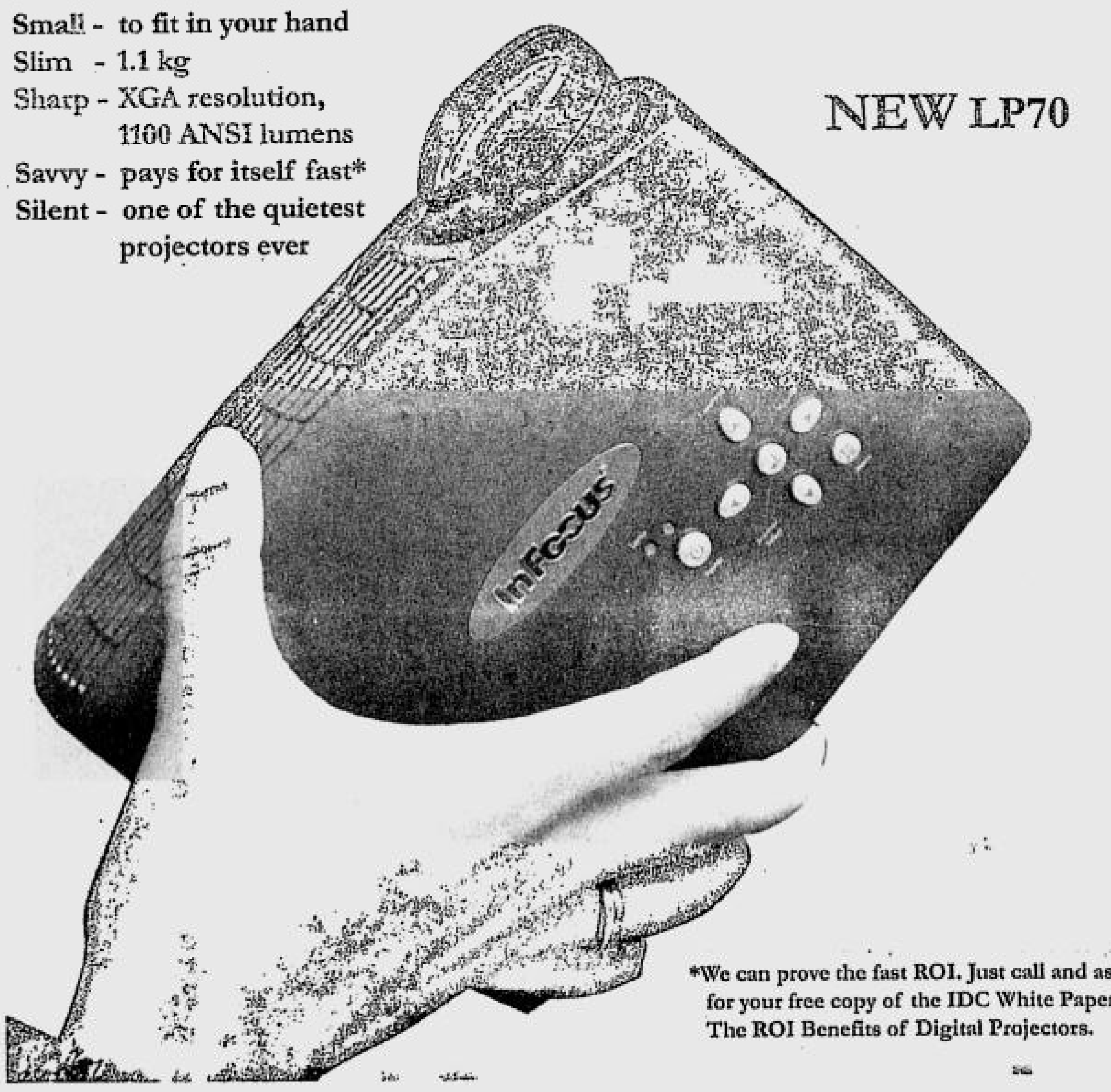

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Camacho chatter

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

JOSE Isidro Camacho—a good borrower but an ill-fated revenue-enhancer—will most likely rejoin the foreign suits after he turns over the Department of Finance to Juanita Amatong this Friday.

According to the grapevine, the former investment banker, who has to observe the one-year prohibition period from working for any private institution that the DOF has directly supervised, can count on a number of offers from various foreign financial institutions that could see the ex-Bankers Trust/Deutsche Bank country manager posted in one of the regional financial centers perhaps as early as January.

According to the pro-Camacho grapevine, the DOF secretary now has a good exit strategy (check Cocktales, Aug. 4 and 6, 2003, for earlier chatter) to finally leave the government—the customs and internal revenue agencies seemed to have finally reined in the deficit beast with increased collection efficiencies.

There is also the bonus revenue from the Supreme Court decision declaring the $683-million (about P37.9 billion) Marcos money as government funds.

Still, even without the Marcos funds, Camacho has already borrowed enough money abroad to sustain government operations next year assuming that the intractable Congress still fails to enact the crucial revenue measures.

And if you still believe the pro-Camacho grapevine, Camacho's differences with GSIS president Winston Garcia were no longer an issue that could have had triggered his resignation.

Camacho was said to have met with a Garcia emissary and a mutual friend, former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, two weeks ago, resulting in a modus vivendi between Camacho and Garcia.

Incidentally, the Camacho strategy of filling the yawning budget deficit with overseas bond issuances has not escaped pointed criticisms from, of all quarters, Ramos finance secretary, now AIM CEO Roberto de Ocampo.

(If you want to check De Ocampo's record as a fund-raiser now that he is out of the government, ask any professor of the Asian Institute of Management.)

Camacho has wisely refrained from answering back De Ocampo's televised commentaries, not even to point out the fact that the revenue base shrank in no small measure due to the switch to the excise sin taxes crafted during, surprise, De Ocampo's watch.

COCKTALES/ B4

Realistic strategy crucial to RP survival

THE PHILIPPINES needs to take a very proactive and well-strategized stance for major industries and sectors to find their niche in the world trading order specially with an accelerating trend of special multi-country trade agreements, according to George Siy, president of the Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines (Congep).

"With the dropping of quotas for garments in 2005, Philippine manufacturers would be faced with an even more price- and efficiency-based competition than ever. With a 6 to 30 percent tariffs for garments entering the US, if a competitor like Thailand who is now negotiating an FTA (Free Trade Agreement) with the US were to obtain it and the Philippines did not, garments, our second largest export industry employing hundreds of thousands, would suffer a major blow in the form of substantial cost disadvantage," Siy explained. He added stated that investments for factories and services would be diverted from the Philippines and flow more to a country with a larger market like the US to access with lower tariffs.

George Siy cited the case of the North American Free Trade Arrangement (Nafta), which enabled Mexico and other Northern American countries to gain billions of dollars of orders and investments, and the case of the Carribean Base Initiative (CBI), which has raked in the same investments to the Carribean countries.

The Asean Free Trade Zone is causing the movement of many factories out of the Philippines to its neighbors with cost, market, logistical or political advantages for the Asean region, and has tremendously dropped the barriers and costs to importing from our neighbors. Siy pointed out that there were also positive effects like drastic drops in prices of consumer goods.

However, he said that "while an FTA would be beneficial to the Philippines, President Bush has his own millers and farmers to deal with.

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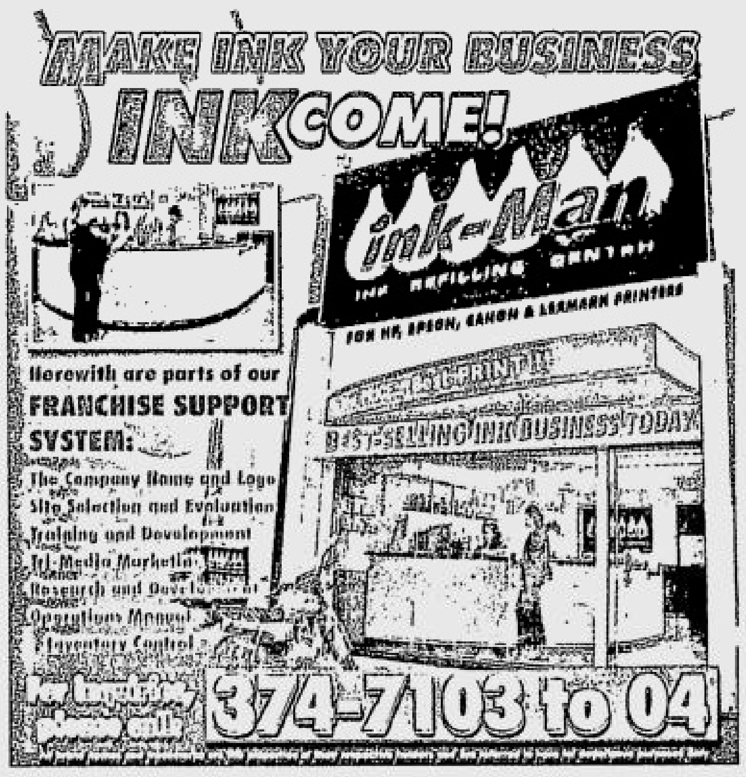

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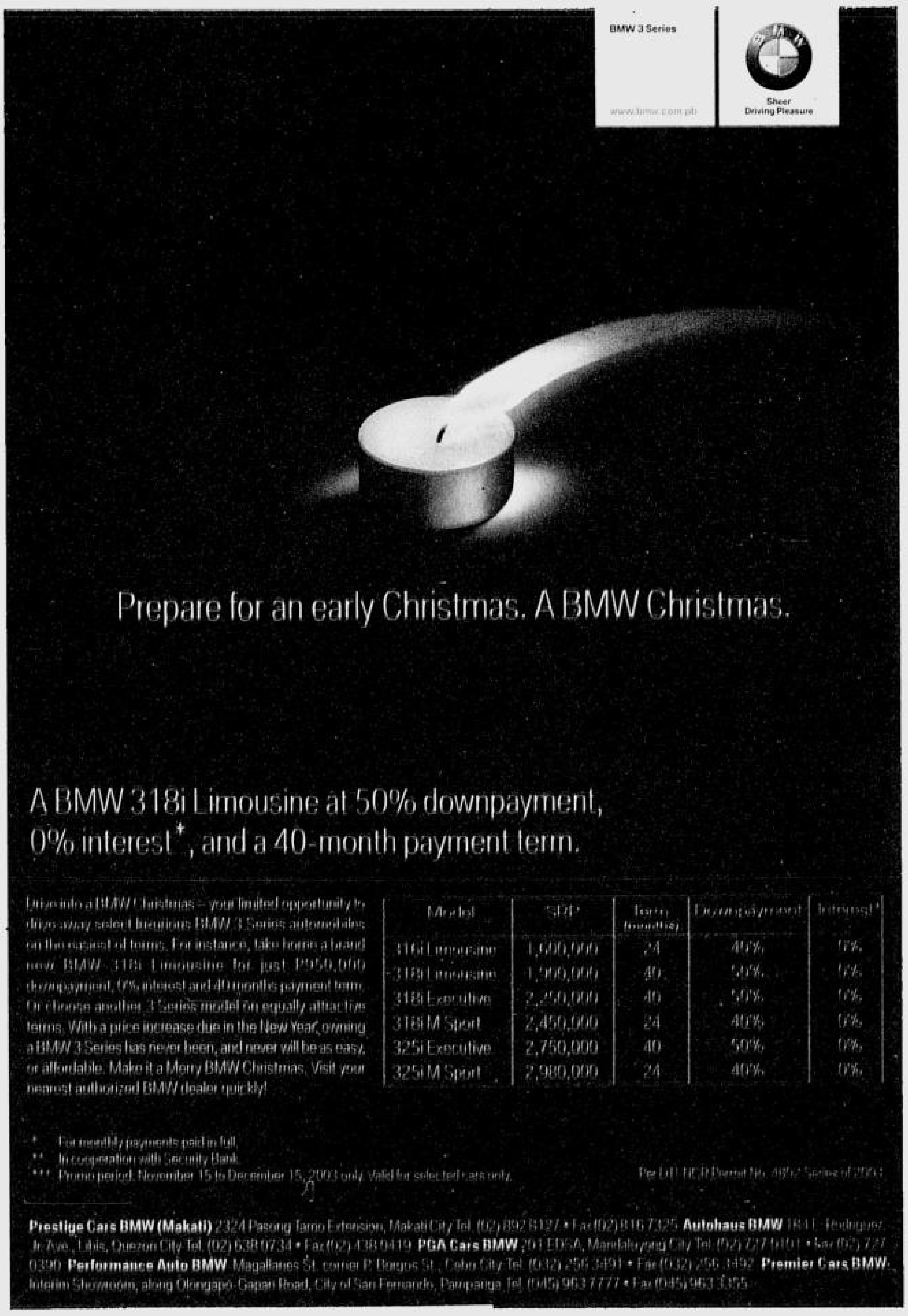

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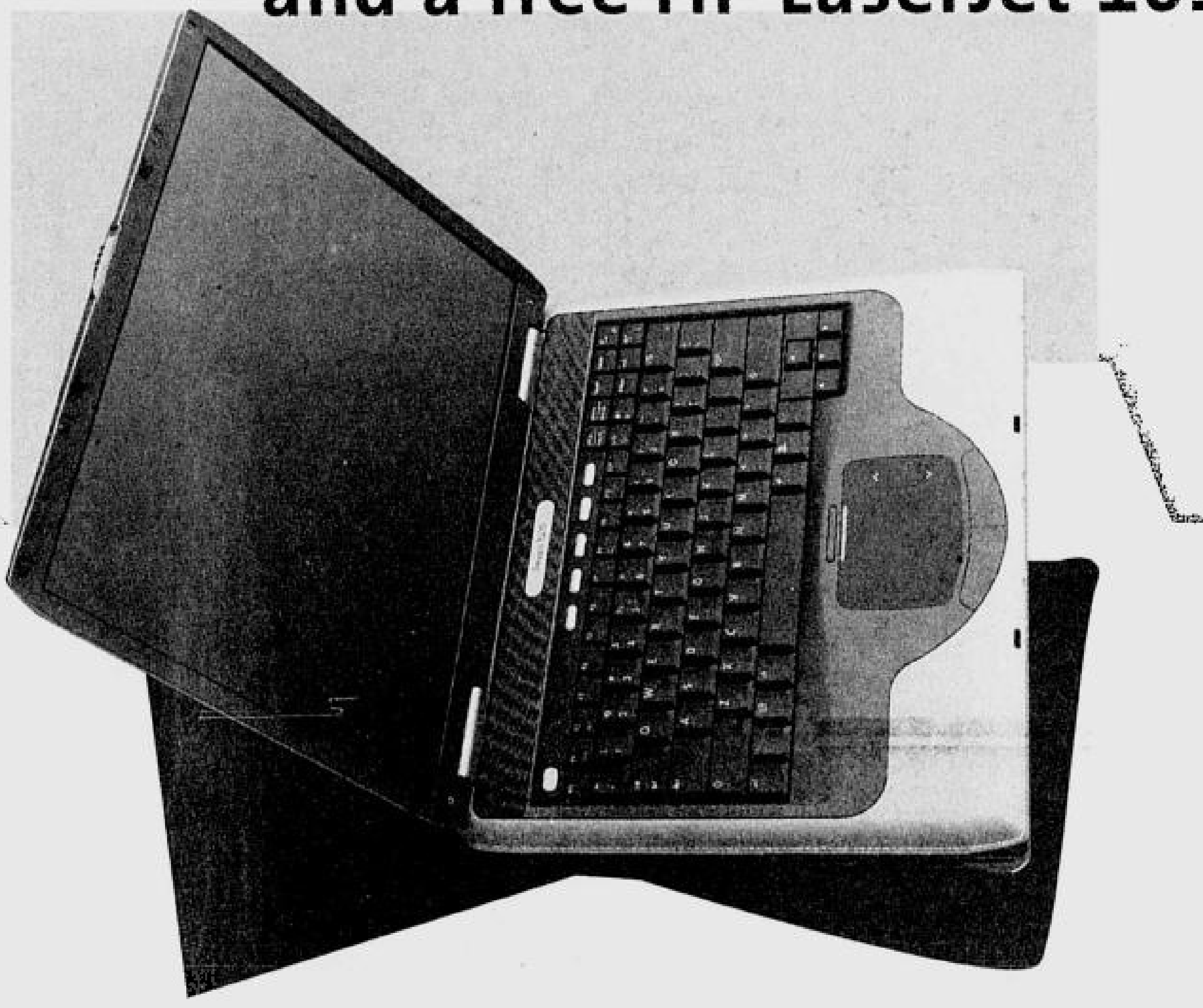

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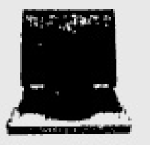

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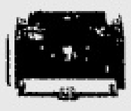

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Breaktime

From page B2

sion of his stay, the overriding concern in business remained as, well, why would a guy like the Whiz want to leave at all.

* * *

FIRST to say goodbye to Gloriaetta was her own choice for Number 2, who was none other than Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Then who should follow but her supposed allies, the presidential candidates Lito Osmeña and Renato de Villa who lost to the man named Band …Wrist Band?

Sure, the political parties of Osmeña and De Villa have only themselves left for members, but still their falling out was not good for Gloriaetta's 2004 plans.

Also Senate President Franklin Drilon is said to be leaving the party of Gloriaetta, and he is joining a party which direly needs credible leadership, the Liberal Party.

* * *

BUT whether or not Drilon is also trying to bail out, may be hard to say, but his decision to switch parties is just not good for Gloriaetta in the eyes of the voters.

And so the question begs to be asked: Just what is it in Gloriaetta, which makes people want to leave her without much ado just like that?

For the ties that bind people in public office are the same anywhere, whether in politics, in business, or in the karaoke bar.

Such ties have nothing to do with the blinding color of the bathroom tiles or something like that. They are things like respect, loyalty and love.

Even to some people around her, Gloriaetta is hardly the leader to whom you will die for, if it comes to that—unlike, say, your squad sergeant or your coach.

* * *

AND we heard this comment a lot of times about our President: It is not easy to love the person, because she gives you a feeling of being distant.

The President of the Republic seems to be cold in her ways of dealing with people, and she always manages to look like she is faking it, when she tries to warm up to you.

Gloriaetta is not a person who can affect you in a deep personal way. I have people doing that to me. Raul Locsin, for instance. Or Baby Dalupan. As for Gloriaetta, she actually affects her Cabinet members with fear.

They follow her, sure, but it is a following out of fear. It is a different kind of loyalty when people do things for you out of love.

* * *

MAYBE that's why, despite all her efforts to get the same mass appeal as Sen. Noli de Castro, or for that matter, Wrist Band himself, she seems to fail.

Gloriaetta has been going around the country, particularly in the poor highly populated areas, i.e. slums, even using media in the process, precisely to improve her mass appeal. And what does the survey say?

She never really captured the imagination of the people that she was the leader for whom they would make little daily sacrifices—and not even to die for.

Say what you will about movie actors and television announcers. Because of their scanty intelligence, they can never hope to cope with the volume of documents which the President of the Republic must go through everyday.

But they just know how to win the love of the public. And that's an important part of politics, too. And in a lot of ways, that may be what we need today.

* * *

NOW that he is leaving this cute administration, the Whiz will probably have to live off his savings for a while. Or maybe on the salary of his wife Kim, who is also a working professional, by the way.

The Whiz cannot do anything here for one year after he resigns. He may only do consultancy work outside the Philippines. In this political climate of ours, who wants to do anything here. No job for the Whiz, I guess, for sometime.

* * *

IT IS said that the Whiz had a falling out with Gloriaetta over the GSIS issue, because the Whiz wanted to fire out GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, but Gloriaetta would not.

Word is that the Whiz did not find Garcia an easy person to deal with, unlike for instance the head of SSS who is another professional finance person, Corazon de la Paz.

Garcia was a virgin in managing a large institution like the GSIS, having been a small time lawyer in Cebu. Even inside the GSIS, his management capability was doubted. For instance, he decided to suspend the processing of GSIS loans to members, while the computers were being installed.

If a bank does that, and it refused to do business with its clients, just because it is computerizing, there will be a revolution.

* * *

IN THE case of the GSIS, all Garcia had to do was make a public apology. And it is all due to Gloriaetta's political needs. Garcia has political clout in Cebu.

Maybe the Whiz cringed at the thought of such a brazen politicking. He is not used to it.

In his highly professional world of finance, if you make a bad management decision, you suffer the consequence. In the private sector, there is accountability.

Cocktales

From page B3

No wonder De Ocampo's workhorse, then finance undersecretary now Globe millionaire Romeo Bernardo, loves the following quote: The longer I stay out of government, the more infallible I become!

Baguio's best view

THE new SM mall in Baguio, with its non-shoebox design, looks destined to replace the Lion Head as the landmark for the Pines City.

Built on top of the highest hill on the burned-down Pines Hotel property, SM City Baguio with its distinctive crown of white teflon sails beacons starved provincial mall rats for miles around.

The mall was originally scheduled to open February next year, but have had to be rushed in time for last week's advertising and media invasion from Manila. Still, even with only half of the outside lights installed, the new mall at night elicited the same "wow!" reaction as the new Greenbelt does to first-time viewers.

Even Unilever Philippines CEO Howard Belton, no fan of the traditional SM mall design, could not hold back his British reserve to praise the newest (Not for long. The next SM mall opens this weekend in Marilao, Bulacan.) crowd-drawer from the family that revolutionized retailing in the Philippines.

Taipan Henry Sy, who saw the mall for the first time only last Thursday for the blessing ceremonies, proudly said that the final design was chosen from among five submitted by all foreign consultants.

Walkers who could not take the uphill-downhill stress of the city have reason to rejoice and practice their sport around the mall's wide and wraparound verandas offering 360-degree view of the city's famed vistas.

And, afterwards, as usual among local joggers and walkers, they can fill up the energy they burned with any of the fast-food outlets and restaurants ringing the perimeter.

With the new mall offering parking for 800 vehicles, no wonder the shops lining the crowded, decrepit, and traffic-choked Session Road have reason to quake.

Roostan's

THE driveway of the hardly-used Tantoco summer home in Baguio City has been converted into a rooster farm. We are not kidding.

In addition to the caged cocks, free-range native chickens now also roam the garden of the two-story white house, which overlooks the Imelda Park/Baguio Country Club grounds by the South Drive.

For non-Baguio residents, that neighborhood is the city's equivalent of Makati's Forbes Park.

Heard through the grapevine

ONE of the last acts of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho before resigning was to endorse his chief of staff, Inocencio Ferrer, as Insurance Commissioner to replace holdover Eduardo Malinis who reached mandatory retirement age in September.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Tariff reversals

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

TOO bad the public debate on the recent move that reversed our long-standing trade reforms and raised import tariffs again via Executive Order 241 is only happening after the fact. For something that would have such far-reaching impact on the economy and on Filipinos' lives, there should have been much wider public discussion on the pros and cons of the move than was actually made possible by the government prior to issuance of the EO.

The historical context

In the 1990s, our country belatedly embarked on a conscious program to simplify and lower our trade barriers in order to catch up with the dynamic growth of our close neighbors. I say it was belated because it was precisely because our neighbors had begun simplifying and lowering their trade barriers much earlier than we did that they had pulled ahead of us in economic performance in the 1980s. We were, in fact, variously known then as the "sick man of Asia," a "Latin American economy on the wrong side of the globe," or the "basket case" of the Asean.

Ours was still a largely inward-looking economy, with our producers geared primarily towards our own domestic market. Only 14 percent or one-seventh of our total domestic output was being exported in 1985. Filipino manufacturers mostly lacked the competitiveness to sell beyond our shores, because high tariff protection through the years had made it possible for them to sell domestically at prices way above what their counterparts abroad could sell for. In other words, trade protection made it all right to have higher production costs (translation: be less efficient) than competitors abroad. With an industrial policy focused on import substitution, it didn't take long for us to realize that our economy could only grow so much—and generate only so much jobs—with such an orientation.

The numbers speak for themselves. Our annual output growth averaged a mere one percent through the 1980s when our more open neighbors were growing at an average of 5-8 percent. Our average tariff rate then was well over 40 percent, which is how much our domestic producers could then afford to be costlier than their foreign counterparts. At such cost disadvantage, there was really no way we could sell abroad! Apart from this, our import tariff structure was a convoluted array of multiple rates ranging from zero up to 200 percent. Such wide rate disparities invited technical smuggling through misdeclaration (i.e. to apply lower tariff rates), which was indeed rampant, and made the cost of customs administration rather high.

Aggressive reform

In 1991, then Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao decided it was time to get serious about changing all this, and proposed a bold tariff reform package that was issued by President Corazon Aquino as EO 413. It dramatically simplified our tariff structure into just four rates, i.e. 30 percent for finished products, 20 percent for intermediate inputs, 10 percent for raw materials and 3 percent for capital equipment.

Industrialists howled. Full page ads filled the newspapers, calling EO 413 the "death knell" of Philippine industry and agriculture. Congress invoked the sole right to modify tariffs, and forced President Aquino to suspend EO 413 and leave the matter to Congress. The task fell on me, as then Neda deputy director-general and co-chair of the Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) Technical Committee (chaired by then DTI Undersecretary Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), to shepherd the initiative through seemingly endless congressional debates on behalf of the Executive branch. But after a year of tossing it around amid emotionally charged hearings and political posturings, Congress threw it back to President Aquino largely unchanged, and was reissued as EO 470, providing a phasing in of the new tariff rate structure.

A calculated move

Having thus inherited this key reform measure, the Ramos economic managers decided it was in the country's best interest to move even further and plot a longer-range road map, by plotting a clear phase-down of tariffs to a uniform 5 percent level by 2004. Inspired by the positive experience of Chile with a similar uniform structure, there were important justifications for this move. First, it was important to achieve a true level playing field in our tariff structure to avoid age-old distortions in the allocation of our resources toward (often wrongly) pre-identified "winners." Second, such uniformity would eliminate technical smuggling outright and dramatically reduce the cost of customs administration, not to mention corruption. Third, physical smuggling would also be virtually eliminated, as the low 5-percent tariff hardly makes it worth the effort and risk of penalty. Fourth, phasing down to a 5-percent rate would usher in a regime of international competitiveness for our producers, having removed the large leeway for inefficiency the traditional high rates of protection provided. And fifth, it was critical that the long-term direction of policy be clearly and firmly set, so that government and domestic producers would be led to make the necessary investments toward inherent competitiveness.

The last point is significant, because the whole infant-industry argument that is often invoked to justify initially high trade protection breaks down if there is no clear sunset clause to that protection. That was precisely our problem in the past. We fostered 25-year-old "infants" because we never made clear to them when, or even if, the protection was to be eventually removed. Thus, in the face of criticism that we were needlessly laying down our cards too early and depriving ourselves of negotiation leverage, we felt it more important that we signal our intentions clearly to our productive sectors, to finally get out of our past history of complacency in inefficiency. Contrary to what the critics say, the trade

TARIFF / B6

Peso weakness, interest rate

From page B1

Amatong is undersecretary for the International Finance Group of the DOF. She was a former executive director of the World Bank Group responsible for nine countries.

Amatong served as DOF undersecretary during the time of Aquino and Ramos and was asked to resume government service under the Macapagal administration.

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REGIONAL STUDY

RP lags in corporate governance

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINES lags behind other Asian countries in shareholders' participation and a few other aspects of corporate governance but leads in setting minimum qualifications for board directors, according to a paper on corporate governance in Asia prepared by representatives of 13 Asian economies in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development.

The paper noted that there appeared to be very few requirements for substantive knowledge or experience for board directors across Asia, with the Philippine rule requiring bank directors to have minimum educational or practical experience representing a "rare example."

The paper studied and compared the rules relating to corporate governance of the following economies: Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Table of the various rules on corporate governance also showed that the Philippines' regulatory framework also stood out in setting specific board committees for both remuneration and nomination.

Moreover, on whether voting trust agreements were disclosed, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam were the only jurisdictions that had rules for this.

The table, however, also reflected that some of the Philippines' rules were inadequate in other areas of corporate governance.

Specifically, the Philippines was the only one of the 13 economies that had no rules requiring related persons or persons with potential conflict of interest to abstain from voting on a transaction.

Unlike the other Asian economies, the Philippines also had no rules setting thresholds for a company to request or convene an extraordinary shareholder meeting.

Also, the Philippines, together with Bangladesh, lacked a rule on providing a process of disclosure and communications of a company to its board.

The paper recommended to the Asian countries six priorities for reform in corporate governance. These were:

- continue to raise awareness among companies, directors, shareholders and other interested parties of the value of good corporate governance;
- strive for effective implementation and enforcement of corporate governance laws and regulations;
- work toward full convergence with international standards and practices for accounting, audit and non-financial disclosure;
- improve participation of board directors in strategic planning, monitoring of internal control systems and independent review of transactions involving managers, controlling shareholders and other insiders;
- ensure that non-controlling shareholders are protected from exploitation by insiders and controlling shareholders, and
- intensify efforts to improve the regulation and corporate governance of banks.

Court upholds dismissal of ASB receiver

THE COURT of Appeals has upheld the Securities and Exchange Commission's dismissal of Fortunate Cruz as rehabilitation receiver of the ASB Group of Companies.

In a decision promulgated on Nov. 19, the fifth division of the Court of Appeals denied Cruz's petition for certiorari to nullify SEC order dated May 26, 2003, dismissing Cruz as receiver of ASB.

The SEC replaced Cruz as receiver of ASB for "placing his personal interest over his fiduciary duties."

SEC officials earlier said that Cruz refused to accept a cut in compensation to P50,000 a month.

Elena R. Torrijos

Creditors press management committee for Uniwide group

FOURTEEN unsecured creditors of the Uniwide group of companies have asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to install a management committee in lieu of a one-man rehabilitation receiver in order to ensure improved monitoring and supervision of the operations of the distressed retail group.

In a petition with the SEC, the 14 companies asserted that there was reason to fear that measures for proper process for procurement of goods, monitoring and control of inventories and a vigilant system of budgetary discipline have not been adopted by Uniwide.

The 14 companies included Asian Electrosystems Corp., LEC Steel Manufacturing Corp., Asset Builders Corp., OIC Construction and Development Corp., Schema Konsult Inc., Asian Technicon Managers & Consultants Inc., Division 16 Inc., Pilgor Construction & Trading Corp., Ayin Contractor and Trading Corp., Mondragon Construction Corp., DN Steel Marketing Inc., Ross Industries, Top Brass Fabricator and Do All Metal Industries.

The creditors pointed out that there was no major, credible accounting firm acting as external auditor for Uniwide Sales Warehouse Club, the cash-generating corporation of the retail group.

The creditors also noted that there appeared to be no compliance of the present board of directors of Uniwide with respect to the Code of Corporate Governance. For example, the board of directors of publicly listed Uniwide Holdings Inc. included two "independent" directors who were actually previous stockholders, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange had also earlier threatened UHI with suspension of trading of shares for failure to comply with reportorial requirements.

"It is apparent that a more efficient and better system of checks and balance must be instituted in order to ensure that Uniwide is being managed in the best possible and efficient manner. To be sure, the call for the appointment of a truly representative management committee, in lieu of the appointed one-man rehabilitation receiver, comprising nominees from recognized secured and unsecured creditors and management representative of Uniwide, subject to the control and supervision of this Honorable Commission, can never be more justified than now," the unsecured creditors said.

Elena R. Torrijos

SMC unit discloses gin market study

THE LOCAL gin market is apparently going through "confusion" following the entry of a new gin product launched by Tanduay Distillers Inc. (TDI).

This was claimed by Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) counsel Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices based on findings by leading market research expert Mercedes Abad.

Abad's studies allegedly showed that TDI's Ginebra Kapitan gin product was mistaken for a Ginebra San Miguel product, and that gin drinkers tended to believe that the product was manufactured by GSMI, San Miguel Corp., or La Tondeña.

The apparent market confusion led to the filing of a P100-million suit by GSMI against TDI for alleged trademark infringement and unfair competition.

The study reportedly involved a representative sample of 300 randomly selected regular gin drinkers from the greater Manila area and Central Luzon, which have a regular gin drinker population of 6.2 million.

Abad said 90 percent of her respondents, when asked what they associated with the word "Ginebra," gave "Ginebra San Miguel," "San Miguel," "La Tondeña" and "Ginebra Blue" as their top-of-mind answer.

When asked what brand came to their mind when they saw the word "Ginebra", Abad said 92 percent of the respondents answered "Ginebra San Miguel," "San Miguel," "La Tondeña" or "Ginebra Blue".

Abad also disclosed that 82 percent of the respondents who were shown the back view of the Ginebra Kapitan bottle mistakenly identified it as "Ginebra," "Ginebra San Miguel," "San Miguel" or "Ginebra Blue."

Tariff reversals

From page B5

reforms of the 1990s were not recklessly aggressive unilateral moves of pure bravado; they were closely calculated moves informed by the stark lessons of our economic history.

In plotting out a reform path that went beyond the Ramos term, we realized that there was always the possibility the next administrations would not match his political will, and balk at the eleventh hour in the face of predictably strong lobbies to stop the reform's completion. And so indeed it has happened. With EO 241, the traditional opponents of reform got their way, citing that low tariffs have been bad for business.

But good business is not the same as good economics. The first serves the narrow interest of the businessman; the latter serves the greater good of the greater number. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 21, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.5	17	17.5	8,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	44	43.5	44	165,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	18,880
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	1,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	9,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	240,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	26	26	39,300
Phil. Savings Bank	26	26	26	26	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	12,000
Security Bank Corp.	17	18	17	17.5	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1310	1310	1310	1310	1,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	9,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	755	740	745	91,060
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	18,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	3,110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	755	765	755	760	71,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	144,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	228,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21.25	21.25	20.75	21.25	823,500
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	1,427,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	2,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	130,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	79,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	50,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	16,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	11,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	81,200
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	52,900
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	58,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	5	1,496,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.43	0.45	4,590,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	630,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.035	0.035	7,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	351,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	210,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,555,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,650,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.11	0.14	830,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.2	8	7.2	8	2,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	540,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	26	26	46,800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	5,800,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	140,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	860,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	230,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	2,571,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	78,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6,430,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,850,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	65,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	60,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,270,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	2,700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	502,740	23,170,550.00
Comm'l & Ind'l.	195,032,790	181,633,080.00
PRO	16,139,000	77,608,890.00
Mining	135,440,000	3,809,100.00
OIL	14,250,000	97,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	361,364,530	286,318,920.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	426.05	UP 2.14
Comm'l & Ind'l.	1,985.65	UP 7.97
PRO	556.01	DOWN 8.90
Mining	1,662.02	DOWN 8.49
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	824.67	DOWN 0.64
Composite	1,334.30	UP 1.96

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 1,328

CURRENCIES

November 23, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.839207788	1.000000	55.289000
Japan	Yen	0.007703	0.009179	0.507500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.430681	1.704800	94.256700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108144	0.128864	7.124800
Switzerland	Franc	0.646091	0.769882	42.566000
Canada	Dollar	0.644553	0.768049	42.464700
Singapore	Dollar	0.488622	0.582242	32.191600
Australia	Dollar	0.606671	0.722909	39.968900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.226074	2.652590	146.659000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223801	0.266681	14.744500
Brunei	Dollar	0.487204	0.580552	32.098100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000117	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021043	0.025075	1.386400
UAE	Dirham	0.228505	0.272287	15.054500
Euro	Euro	1	1.191600	65.882400
Argentina	Peso	0.291898	0.347826	19.231000
Brazil	REAL	0.285154	0.339789	18.786600
India	Rupee	0.018368	0.021887	1.210100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220874	0.263193	14.551700
Mexico	New Peso	0.074997	0.089366	4.941000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539614	0.643004	35.551000
Korea	Won	0.000704	0.000839	0.046400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024733	0.029472	1.629500

Fresh uncertainties . . .

From page B1

Monique Lecaros, head for institutional sales of SB Equities, said that as the resignation had adversely affected the peso-dollar trading on Friday, the impact would also be bearish when the stock market opens this week.

Aside from Camacho's resignation, the business community was also saddened by the kidnappings in the metropolis. Last week, there was uproar over the killing of 32-year-old Coca Cola Export Co. executive Betti Chua Sy.

Even without these new factors, the market already harbored negative biases over domestic political wranglings, renewed terrorist activities abroad, weakness in the major global markets and the desire for some players to take profits.

"With most probable presidential candidates keeping mum on their plans for 2004, some investors have decided that they couldn't take the heat and decided to get out of the kitchen. Apparently, the prejudice against certain hopefuls has some market players concerned about the country. There are also those who are worried that if the current administration loses in the elections, it may derail the economic reforms already initiated," said investment guide Philstocks.net.

Doris C. Dumlao

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No. A-17597
As of November 24, 2003

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,300,000	1,100,000/1,200,000*
Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Camp John Hay	-	200,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	150,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,230,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	150,000
Club Filipino	150,000	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	260,000
Eastridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	190,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/11,500,000*	-
Manila Polo	-	2,200,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	430,000/600,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000	110,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	140,000/165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	350,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	-
Tat Filipinas A	-	130,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000
Valle Verde Country Club	-	125,000

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of November 24, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	250,000
Canlubang	400,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Club Filipino	110,000	160,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	150,000	170,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	220,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,800,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	9,500,000	10,100,000
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	400,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	130,000	170,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Corporate)	35,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	200,000	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	350,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	105,000	-
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	800,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,100,000	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	370,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	830,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,000,000

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	SELLING	BUYING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	please call
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		please call
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	650K
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	180K	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	170K
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	360K	please call
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	80K	
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"		please call
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	280K	
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	85K	-
FONTANA "D"	55K	please call
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	200K	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	9.5K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	please call
MANILA POLO CLUB	please call	2.3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	450K	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600K	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	230K	180K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	175K	
ROCKWELL CLUB	350K	-
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	please call	-
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1.0M
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	135K	130K
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	250K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	7.2M	6.3M

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clubshares
As of NOV. 24, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Camp John Hay	-	pls. call
Canlubang	-	450,000
Club Filipino	-	150,000
Orchard "A"	180,000	-
Orchard "C"	-	265,000
Evercrest	-	50,000
Fairways Blue Water	-	150,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	230,000
Makati Sports Club "C"	-	260,000
Manila Polo	2,250,000	-
Mla. Southwoods	-	350,000
Phil. Columbian		90,000
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	175,000
Riviera	-	140,000
Rockwell Club	-	350,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	pls. call
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)	-	100,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	365,000

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Meralco urged to use bonds

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSUMER and Oil Price Watch said it wanted interest-bearing bonds to cover the P18.6-billion refund to commercial and industrial costumers of Manila Electric Co.

In a statement, COPW chair Raul T. Concepcion said his group would submit its recommendations to the Energy Regulatory Commission when it starts hearings on how to conduct the fourth and final phase of a P30-billion Meralco refund to customers.

The refund accounts for income tax payments that Meralco recovered from consumers between February 1994 and April 2003.

Concepcion said the proposed bonds would have an eight-year term and would be payable in eight equal annual installments.

"(We will also recommend) a flexibility clause that would allow the ERC to determine annually the profitability of Meralco and the possibility of reducing the period of redemption to less than eight years," he said.

"(We will also propose a provision for) an option for the bondholder to convert the paper partially or in full into Meralco shares of stocks," Concepcion said.

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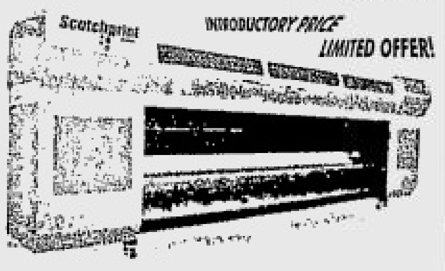

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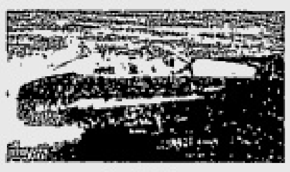
Notice is served to the general public that the three MARIAH SPEEDBOATS, as seen in the pictures below are MISSING.


Red: 21'

Blue: 22'

White: 17'

Reward will be given to whoever can furnish us information leading to the whereabouts of the above MARIAH SPEEDBOATS.
Last seen at No. 1 Ejercito St. San Juan, Metro Manila

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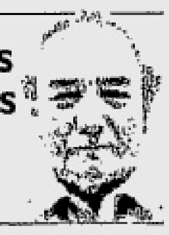
What should be done with military retirees?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

THE APPOINTMENT of General Angelo Reyes, recently retired as Secretary of Defense after a long and distinguished military career, to head the anti-kidnapping group is in line with a time-honored practice of shifting high-ranking military retirees to executive positions in the civilian side of the government.

It is time to take a good look at this practice.

Let me hasten to say that, next to saving souls, defending one's country is the noblest of all professions.

Throughout the ages and all over the world, the military hero—from Alexander to Napoleon to MacArthur—is enshrined in history books, public squares and marble obelisks.

Being a young nation, the Philippines does not have much of a military tradition.

Even then, the Filipino people owe a debt of gratitude to those who served -- and served well -- in the military all their lives, such as General Reyes.

But what is to be done with the likes of General Reyes when they reach retirement age?

What Malacañang has been doing is to find a niche for him in the civilian side.

During the postwar economic boom in the 1950s, there was a shortage of executives in the private sector, especially in the insurance industry.

To help fill the gap, it became a fad to hire military retirees, from colonels and up, into executive positions.

It was felt that the military person carries with him a wealth of management expertise.

The fad did not last.

The military retiree just did not fit into the private sector. They were like ducks out of water.

The late Col. Jaime Velasquez was the exception that proved the rule.

He joined Ayala and was one of the architects of the development of Makati. The park beside the Makati Sports Club is named after him.

To this day, the private sector hires no military retirees except to head the security force.

So, the military retiree, who wants to work, ends up in the civilian side of government.

As a retiree, he is considered a civilian and is then qualified to hold government positions reserved for civilians.

But he cannot shed his military upbringing. He remains a military man running a civilian agency.

A round hole in a square peg.

Also, the appointment of a military retiree into an executive position in a civilian agency always has a jarring effect on the morale of the staff of that agency.

It is estimated that there are 4,000 military retirees holding executive positions in the civilian side of the government.

This is unhealthy for our democratic form of government, which is designed to be run by real civilians without any military upbringing.

It should be the strict policy of government that when a military man reaches retirement age, he should be pensioned off with the heartfelt wishes of a grateful nation for a military job well done.

Only in the rarest of cases—there seems to be a growing doubt whether Angelo Reyes, with all his experience and accomplishments, is the best man for catching kidnappers—should the military retiree be shifted to take a high level position in the government.

If the military pension plan has to be rehashed and upgraded, let us do so.

But, as a rule, the military retiree should be off the civilian payroll.

Let him enjoy his grandchildren.

BSP sees Nov. inflation rate rising to 3.5% from 3.1% in Oct.

By Clarissa S. Batino

PRICES of basic commodities could rise by 3.5 percent this month following the recent increase in fuel prices and consumer spending due to the coming Christmas holidays, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"The BSP is looking at an inflation rate of 3.1 to 3.5 percent in November," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

"Oil prices have increased while Christmas spending has started," Tetangco added.

Tetangco added that the peso remained volatile this month because of political uncertainties.

This put more pressure on prices of basic commodities to increase as the peso's purchasing power declines with a stronger dollar.

The local currency dropped to a new low of P55.585 last Friday following the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho effective Nov. 30.

Camacho did not specify his reasons for leaving the Cabinet of President Macapagal-Arroyo but the move was seen to have been prompted by his disgust over too much politicking in government.

Inflation stood at 3.1 percent in October while the full-year average remained at 3 percent, below the government's forecast of 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent.

Inflation is the rate at which prices of a basket of basic goods and services increase.

While inflation remained benign this year, the Monetary Board refused to lower overnight rates following a 25-basis point cut in July 2, the only time policy rates were adjusted this year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said earlier that he saw no need to further cut the BSP's overnight rates as there was sufficient money in the financial system to fuel the desired level of economic growth.

"The idea, especially during an election period, is to keep interest rates and exchange rates as stable as they can. If rates in the United States go up next year, our flexibility may allow us to keep rates where they are now," Buenaventura said.

BUENAVENTURA

Banks' NPL ratio down to 14.49% in Sept.

THE LEVEL of the non-performing loans of the country's top banks continued to decline in September, accounting for an average of 14.49 percent of total loans from 14.95 percent in the previous months.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas attributed the decline in the NPL level to the growth in the banks' total loan portfolio, which outpaced the slight increase in the level of soured accounts.

BSP figures showed that the banks' total loan portfolio rose by 3.7 percent in September to P1.72 trillion, negating the effect of a slight 0.4 percent increase in NPLs from P248.27 billion to P249.15 billion.

NPLs refer to accounts whose principal or interests have been unpaid for 90 straight days.

A central bank official also credited the drop in the NPL ratio to the improved collection of past-due loan accounts.

As of the end of the third quarter this year, 12 out of the 41 commercial banks posted NPL ratios above the industry average.

Banks with the highest NPL ratios include the Philippine National Bank where one out of two loans are non-performing, Prudential Bank at 38.26 percent, Philippine Bank of Communications at 28.26 percent and Bank of Commerce at 27.68 percent.

Al Amanah Islamic Bank and United Overseas Bank registered an NPL ratio of 89 percent and 55 percent but their loan portfolios were significantly smaller than the other banks'.

The BSP said that the banks' non-performing assets, which includes NPLs and P198.57 billion in foreclosed assets, also eased to 13.25 percent of total assets in September from 13.32 percent a month ago.

Clarissa S. Batino

Globe, Digitel sign new agreements with MCI

By Abigail L. Ho

TWO more Philippine carriers have signed interim agreements with American telecom firm MCI International, paving the way for the resolution of the long-standing termination rates dispute between the two countries' carriers.

Globe Telecom Inc. said in a statement issued late Friday that its recently signed agreement with MCI would provide a basis for rates that would ease the flow of direct traffic between MCI and Globe's networks.

The company said that while it had not blocked traffic coming from MCI's network, "the stop-payment order issued by the US (Federal Communications Commission) did create some disruption in the relationship since Globe could not be assured that it would be paid for traffic received from US carriers."

Globe carrier services head Gil Genio said the interim agreement was "an important first step to normalizing the relationship between the parties," pending the lifting of a payment suspension order issued by the US FCC's International Bureau.

An industry source also revealed that Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. had signed an interim agreement with MCI in Nov. 11, similar to what dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. recently signed.

Digitel, like Globe, said it had also never blocked calls coming from MCI's network as it still had an ongoing contract with the American carrier despite the impasse.

The rates dispute stemmed from a March 10 order by the US FCC that allowed the two US carriers to stop paying their Philippine counterparts for receiving calls from their networks.

The order was issued in response to AT&T Corp. and MCI's claims that Philippine carriers engaged in whipsawing, or pitting US carriers against each other to get better deals.

QUALITY-CERTIFIED PLDT PROCUREMENT CENTER
TRIUMPHS OVER ISO 9001:2000 SURVEILLANCE AUDIT
Transcending Quality in Excellence

By Anthony Goodwinn A. Cósico
PLDT Procurement Center

The Procurement Planning & Performance Center of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) surpassed the challenge of the recent ISO 9001:2000 Surveillance Audit conducted by Anglo Japanese American Registrars, Inc. (AJA) on the Center's Quality Management System (QMS).

The Surveillance Audit is an annual requirement imposed upon all ISO-certified organizations to show that the organization not only has maintained the high standards of ISO, it has also proven that it can advocate for continual improvement from its present processes or systems.

In a post-surveillance audit statement, Atty. Oliver Carlos G. Odulio, PLDT Procurement Center Head, said, ". . . It is worth noting that no non-conformance was found, not even a minor one (non-conformances are acceptable during audits for so long as a corrective action is put in place). But in this case, everything was perfect. In fact, several notable improvements to the process were cited as proof that the Center is continuously striving towards excellence, and not being content to merely rest on the laurels of its previous ISO certification.".

Atty. Caroline V. Henson, Vice President, PLDT Support Services Sector expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the Center. "I commend the Procurement Center for its members' continuous efforts towards improvement. Their consistent adherence to the strict quality standards of their ISO 9001:2000 certification has been recognized in the successful Surveillance Audit that was recently concluded. Congratulations to them and more power! Achievements such as these are very inspiring to the rest of the company."

Year 2001 saw the Procurement Center venturing on a major quality management system reengineering to document, monitor, audit and improve its internal business processes. This spurred the need for the Center to utilize ISO 9001:2000 as a QMS tool. With the assessment done by AJA, Inc., one of the country's leading 3rd party ISO certification bodies, the Center obtained its UKAS BS EN ISO 9001:2000-certified status in September 2002.

The Center whose main activities cover the development, provision, implementation and monitoring of strategic procurement solutions for PLDT was subjected to a multi-stage audit process essentially consisting of an on-site surveillance audit to determine the e xtent its of conformance with the requirements of the nominated ISO 9000 Standard.

The on-site surveillance audit was conducted by AJA, Inc.'s Audit Team represented by Mr. Gilmore A. Rivera, Audit Team Leader and Paul B. Bagatsing, Auditor, in accordance with the previously developed and agreed audit itinerary.

The Center's QMS was fully assessed and was found consistent with the operation of the business and is effectively implemented. Several recommendations for continual improvement of the Center's quality management system and business processes were also presented by the Audit Team.

As a result, AJA, Inc. rendered the PLDT Procurement Center in full and complete conformance with ISO requirements and thus.. *recommended for continued certification against the requirements of ISO 9001:2000*".

Now on its 2nd year as an ISO 9001:2000-certified organization and as it celebrates its 4th year anniversary as the PLDT Support Services Sector's strategic procurement planning and performance organization, the Procurement Center continues to implement projects and related endeavors that aim to promote and sustain the culture of quality in excellence among individuals, teams, processes and systems that comprise the organization.

The PLDT Procurement Center in a post-ISO 9001:2000 Surveillance Audit euphoria. Also in photo are Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT, President & CEO (center, seated). Seated beside him are Atty. Carlos Oliver G. Odulio, Head, PLDT Procurement Center and Ms. Gloria de Guzman-Olaivar, Managing Director, AJA, Inc

ADVT

Tin can manufacturers oppose grant of tariff protection to NSC

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S tin can manufacturers have cautioned the Tariff Commission against granting tariff protection to the mothballed National Steel Corp. claiming that the move would pose a serious threat to steel importers.

The Tin Can Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc. said in a letter sent last week to Tariff Commission Chair Edgardo Abon that imposing tariffs on raw materials for tin cans would significantly increase the industry's production costs.

The TCMAPI sent the letter after the government raised the possibility that it would grant incentives, such as the reimposition of tariffs on imported steel products, to ensure the reopening of the NSC by March next year.

TCMAPI claimed that the industry was already suffering from stiff competition posed by other packaging materials.

"Even at present zero tariff, we are experiencing migration to mostly imported and cheaper plastic and flexible packaging," the group said.

The group warned that some of its members might be forced either to relocate to China, where cost of labor and raw materials are far cheaper, or cease operations.

"This deepens the apprehension permeating our industry that the grant of tariff protection to NSC is not motivated by the lofty and honorable objective of building a world-class steel industry in this country. Rather, it will be to appease certain groups out to make easy money at the expense of Filipino consumers," TCMAPI said in the letter.

The group said tariff protections granted to the NSC from the 1960s to the 1980s, such as the 30-percent duty imposed on imported tinplates, should have been enough to make the NSC a healthy steel firm.

The group said NSC's huge debt and eventual closure indicated that it was not justified to give NSC too much incentives.

"We reiterate our position that tariff is justified only if it will help an industry become efficient and competitive within a reasonable period of time," the group said.

Napocor considers switch to long-term supply contracts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. is considering a switch to long-term coal supply contracts to cushion the adverse effects of rising global prices due to a shortage of sea-faring haulers.

In an interview, an industry source said this meant going for two to three-year supply contracts for the fuel needs of its own coal-fired power plants as well as those of its independent power producers.

Napocor currently secures coal supplies through spot contracts that call for the delivery of 325,000 metrics tons of coal in five shipments of 65,000 tons each.

"Napocor may be better off with long-term deals considering the shortage of supplies for export from China, where the bulk of Napocor's coal requirements comes from," the source said.

Napocor buys coal for the Mirant Philippines-owned and operated 1,200-megawatt Sual plant in Pangasinan and 735-MW Pagbilao plant in Quezon aside from its own 600-MW Masinloc plant in Zambales.

Chinese suppliers have traditionally provided fuel to Sual and Masinloc as China's coal matches the specifications of the two plants.

An upsurge in industrial activity in China—and the resulting rise in demand for coal—has made the domestic market more lucrative than the international market for Chinese suppliers, the source said.

"The game now is to secure an allocation of part of current production capacity from the suppliers. This can be done only through long-term commitments," the source explained.

The Napocor official said the rising costs of ocean shipping services hit the company as a supplier had asked for an increase in freight payments for previously committed cargoes by about P175 million.

The official said Chinese supplier Shanxi Coal Import and Export Group Corp. had asked to more than double freight costs to $12 per metric ton from $5 a ton.

The shipments involved five shipments covered by a supply and delivery contract that Shanxi won in an auction last July and two optional shipments under a previous contract.

Shipping costs have risen to record highs partly due to a surge in demand for ships that would import raw materials to China.

RP still a good site for investments, BOI says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BOARD of Investments expects investments to increase this year saying that the Philippines remained a good investment site despite political and economic uncertainties.

"Given the strength and entry of some big-ticket projects, we will be exceeding last year's investments figure," Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gregory Domingo said in a press briefing last week.

The BOI registered P28.3 billion worth of investments in 2002, significantly lower than the P102.036 billion in investment recorded the previous year.

Investments in the first half of the year amounted to only P9.21 billion but the BOI was confident that robust second half figures would be enough to exceed the 2002 level.

Without giving exact figures, Domingo said the expected higher investments would come from the information technology sector, which includes call center operations that have mushroomed in Metro Manila.

Domingo said businesses related to IT would account for roughly 15 percent of the new investments this year and 30 percent of additional jobs.

This was attributed to the Department of Trade and Industry's intensive campaign to promote the Philippines as a hub for IT and business process outsourcing activities.

Leading foreign BPO and call center operators have established offices here and have made the Philippines one of their main operations sites.

One of these is Convergys Corp., the world's biggest call center operator, which has put up two call centers with 880 work stations, and has employed over a thousand professionals.

The DTI said it expects more IT-related investments in the coming months.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II earlier projected that the IT industry would create over 35,000 jobs in the next 12 months as the government agency was in talks with Japanese IT firms that may establish operations in the country.

"The IT missions are bearing fruits. We are now seeing the start of another wave of investment inquiries on business outsourcing that includes financial services and customer contact centers," said Roxas during an IT forum last week.

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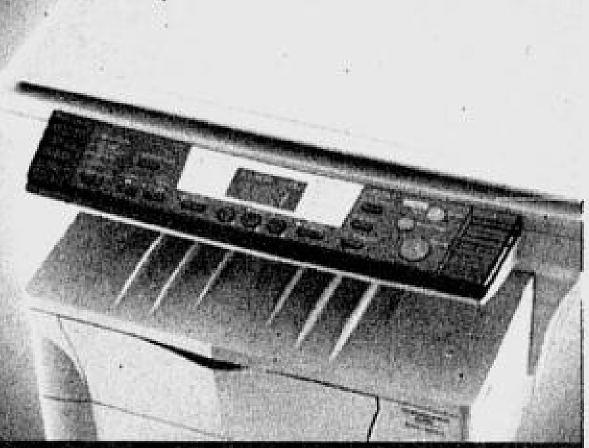

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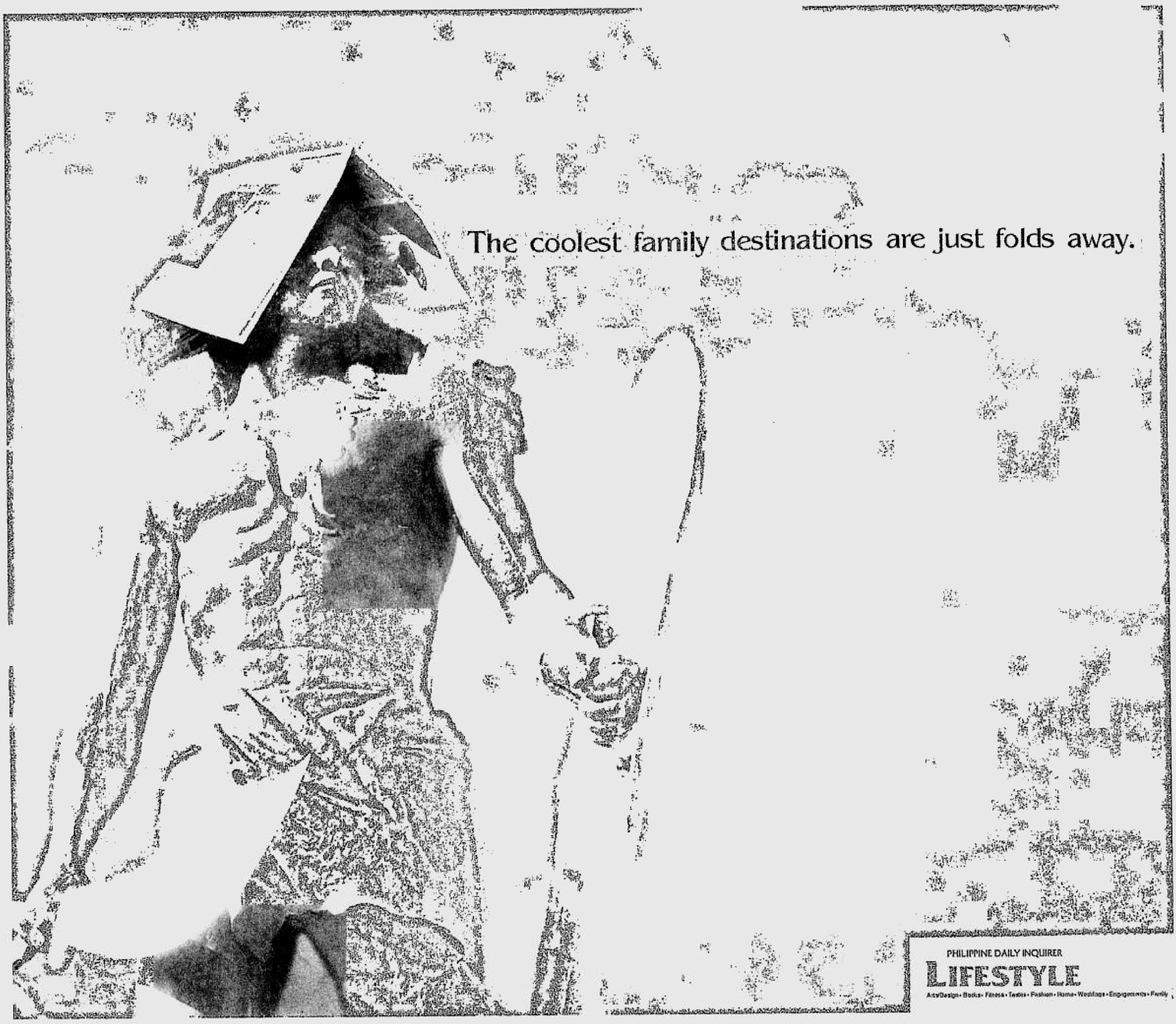
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INQUIRER

Survey points to global economic turnaround

BUSINESS owners from India, Australia and the United States are most optimistic about an economic turnaround while Eurozone countries struggle. In Asia, business owners showed mixed signals as the region recovers from the SARS scare.

These were the highlights of the annual Grant Thornton International Business Owners Survey (Ibos), which showed a significant swing to optimism about the economy among business owners in 26 countries across the world.

India topped the league table in being the most optimistic country with an optimism/pessimism balance of +83 percent, reflecting the current buoyant industrial performance and a good monsoon season. Following close behind is Australia (+81 percent), where the economy continues to be on an economic roll, and the United States (+75 percent).

Structural economic problems have kept Japan at the bottom of the table for the second year running with a balance of -46 percent, although this was significantly more optimistic than last year's balance of -71 percent. The picture across Asia, however, is mixed. There has been a dramatic swing to optimism in Hong Kong—from a balance of -30 percent last year to +51 percent—perhaps indicating that the economy may be turning the corner.

Pakistan, Indonesia and Taiwan are also positive but the Philippines and Singapore remained pessimistic. Singapore is the only country in the survey to become more pessimistic this year and, unlike Hong Kong, appeared to have been unable to shake off the repercussions of SARS.

Future of world's biggest free-trade area uncertain

MIAMI—The trade ministers from 34 nations smiled, shook hands and patted one another on the back after finishing their latest meeting on creating the world's largest free-trade area.

But many see this week's jovial, congratulatory mood as unwarranted, arguing that the framework that the ministers approved Thursday was a major setback to the original goal set here nine years ago of tearing down all trade barriers from Alaska to Argentina.

"On one hand it was a success," said Eric Farnsworth, a vice president for the Council of the Americas, a business group. "But they've still got a long way to go."

The ministers created a framework for the Free Trade Area of the Americas that would have a common set of rules for all countries, with the option of participating in more areas. Their declaration speaks in generalities, but many believe it would allow countries to opt out of making concessions on controversial issues such as agriculture subsidies and intellectual property rights.

Conflicts over those issues had derailed World Trade Organization talks two months ago, so the Miami framework for hemispheric trade was one of the few ways to skirt that problem and still move forward. The proposed agreement still has 5,000 issues and items that need to be resolved.

The proposed free-trade area would unite the 34 countries, creating a market of 800 million people and a collective economic output of about $14 trillion.

It would affect everything from the price of orange juice in supermarkets to whether steelworkers would have jobs in Brazil, the United States or somewhere else in the region.

"This remains a tremendous challenge, to try to create free trade throughout the hemisphere—half the world," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said late Thursday after announcing the Miami agreement.

"So my view ... is that it's a good couple of steps forward, frankly." *AP*

Wall St. 8-month run ends; duration unclear

NEW YORK—Wall Street has slipped into what analysts call a "correction" after an improbable eight-month run, but the question for investors has become: how long,and how deep?

In the week to Friday, the Dow Jones industrials slid 1.43 percent to 9,628.53 while the tech-heavy Nasdaq dropped 1.88 percent to 1,893.88.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 index lost 1.43 percent for the week .to end Friday at 1,035.28.

It was the second straight week of losses for equities after the market approached its highs for the year.

Some analysts said geopolitical tensions and other factors were keeping investors cautious.

"Terrorist fears, trade protectionist concerns, a faltering dollar, Wal-Mart's musing about softening consumer spending (are) all conspiring to send equities lower and prompt a renewed flight to quality," said David Rosenberg at Merrill Lynch.

"Make no mistake—we are witnessing the first real correction since the March lows."

Analysts say a correction is a normal trend after a strong run, and that the market, but predicting the trend is never easy.

After losses in eight of the past 11 sessions, Ralph Acampora at Prudential Securities said it remained unclear how severe the correction would be. If the momentum turns negative, he said, it could be a severe correction.

He said the market is facing "a crucial test of near-term support levels," adding that "a deeper near-term correction could unfold."

Mace Blicksilver at Marblehead Asset Management said investors and portfolio managers are reluctant to take chances, happy to sit on gains so far this year, with the broad market up by some 17 percent since January.

"Portfolio managers want to end the year, they wish it were New Year's Eve and not Thanksgiving," he said. *AFP*

China says trade ties hurt by US textile row

BEIJING—China warned the United States Friday bilateral trade will be hurt if import quotas are slapped on textile products, as the US Federal Reserve chief cautioned against "creeping protectionism."

US Ambassador Clark Randt was called in by Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Ma Xiuhong for an emergency meeting Thursday, a day after he was hauled in by Vice Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong, the Xinhua news agency said.

Simmering tensions between the trading giants flared last week when Washington, under pressure to protect US jobs in sensitive industries ahead of a presidential election campaign, said it would cap imports of Chinese bras, knit fabrics and dressing gowns.

Ma told Randt the US decision would negatively impact China-US trade and harm the United States' domestic interests.

She said China "hopes the US will fully recognize the negative impact on normal trade between the two countries caused by abusing safeguard measures on fabric products," and urged Washington to withdraw "its wrong decision." The State Department reacted neutrally to the two encounters.

"We value a dialogue on trade matters, including the issue of textiles," said State Department deputy spokesperson Adam Ereli.

"We are aware of Chinese concerns regarding our decision to request consultations with China," he said.

As the row rumbled on, US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan called for action to counter "creeping protectionism" in the United States and elsewhere that threaten the global economy.

The influential Federal Reserve chief warned, without specifically naming the disputes, that protectionism was a threat to the international economic recovery fueled by freer global trading. *AFP*

Singapore jobless rate may be cut by year-end

SINGAPORE—Singapore's unemployment rate—currently at its highest level in 17 years—could be sliced in half within a year, its acting labor minister was quoted as saying Saturday.

Acting Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen predicted the city-state's unemployment rate of 5.9 percent will fall to 3 to 4 percent in the second half of 2004, the Straits Times newspaper reported.

"But we will not go back to the old days of 1 to 2 percent unemployment. Those days are gone," Ng said.

Jobs are expected to be generated by demand from an expanding US economy, and signs of economic recovery in Japan and Europe, the report said.

Singapore's unemployment rate worsened to 5.9 percent in the third quarter this year, reaching its highest level since it hit 6 percent in 1986.

However, Singapore's economy has shown signs of renewed momentum after the SARS outbreak set it back in the second quarter.

The economy grew a better-than-expected 1.7 percent in the July-September quarter from the same period in 2002, prompting the government to upgrade its estimate for full-year growth to between 0.5 and 1.0 percent from a previous prediction of 0 to 1 percent.

A rebounding manufacturing sector and brighter economic prospects for major trading partners, the United States and Japan, prompted the forecast change.

Singapore also raised its 2004 growth forecast for gross domestic product—the value of all goods and services—to between 3 and 5 percent. *AP*

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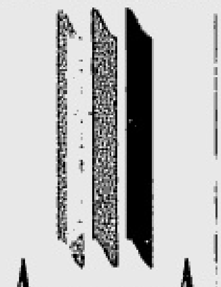

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WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270,000.

Call Joyce 6346487 to 89 for Appointment.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Ofc Mktg Staff 20-45 Col level /grad w/ w/o exp ASAP 9134470 Ms. Maan

Part-Time Teacher-Aide/ Checker Pref. College Level Call Glo 722-7701

WANTED: Accountant Computer Literate FINE FANCY Bldg B Basement SM Megamall

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE CREDIT CARD
Free Car raffle! Req. ITR, C.O.E. I.D., 10T mo. income, Landline#@ Home /0919-7627316, 645-4181

AUCTION SALE

JECARO PAWNSHOP Bonifacio St. Sta. Cruz, Laguna will sell all expired pledges on Nov. 26, 2003 3-4 p.m. A. S. Juan Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Emilia David Tadeo consisting of her bank account in BPI, Malabon Branch under Savings Account no. 57633374-66 was adjudicated to her surviving heir namely Justino B. David, Felicidad B. David and Eliza David-delos Reyes by means of public document executed on Nov. 21, 2003, and ratified before Atty. Dennis G. Orendain, Notary Public for and in Calamba Laguna and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 01; Page No. 01; Book No. X; Series of 2003
PDI-Nov. 24, Dec 1 & 8, 2003

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531088 09178901851

EARN P35T/mo.
Txt ur name & contact # 0916-4806067 • 0917-8902848

HOME BASED Business 8376068

LEARN & BE IN BUSINESS!
Meat Processing (10Recipes)/ Soap&Detergent Making - Nov. 30, 724-79-90 & 725-29-36

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY
BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT
AREA SAMPALOC MANILA
936-1426 / 937-2622

LEXBER, INC.

NEEDS THE FOLLOWING FOR ITS EXPANSION:

ACCOUNTANT
BOOKKEEPER

Interested applicants for the above positions should submit their resumé & fill-up application form from November 24 (Monday) to 28 (Friday), 2003 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at:

#63 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
(infront of St. Mary's College)

Qualifications:
- *Preferably Quezon City resident, single*
- *Male or Female, 24 to 35 years old*
- *Accounting graduate*
- *Proficient in oral & written communication*
- *Aggressive and highly motivated*

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

SD-PRDD

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Logistics Center will conduct a Pre-Auction/Pre-Qualification conference for the sale through public auction of one (1) lot assorted salvage/junk vehicles and assorted scraps and residues of OM, Ordnance, Engineer, Signal, Medical & Dental Items located at MSU Cebu AFPLC, Cebu City under AFPLC ITB No 2003-002 on "As-Is, Where Is" basis on 28 November 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Military Supply Unit Cebu, Arellano Boulevard, Cebu City.

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Forms at the Office of MSU Cebu, Cebu City. Point of Contact: LTC ROMEO A DIGNOS (QMS) PA at 413 2618 (Globe) or in Manila PRDD Supply Depot, AFPLC. Point of Contact LTC JOEL I ENRILE (QMS) PA, Commanding Officer, Supply Depot, AFPLC at PLDT Tel. Number 911-6761 and 911-6001 loc 4433 and 4455 (PRDD)

(Sgd.) ALFREDO M ANDRES
LTC (GSC) PA
Chairman, AFPLC
Disposal Committee

(PDI - Nov. 22, 23 & 24, 2003)

PASIG PRIME
PROPERTY FOR SALE

418sqm. with 2-sty; 5-door apartment opposite Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig near McDonald's, Jollibee and Pasig Cathedral;
P25,000/sqm.
Tel. 641-4589;0918-9422422

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

OWN INTL BIZ 09178451373

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

SMART E-LOAD EASIEST WAY GLOBE AUTO LOAD 7252311

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2
P30T/month!
Female, 23&up! 892-7828

XMASLITES 3SETS/P100 Trees Ropelites Etc. 532-3909

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Rush Sale CALABARZON PRE - SCHOOL ELEM / H.S. 15M FXD 0919-8016125

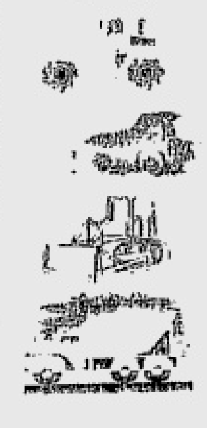
DEALERSHIP

WHOLESALE NATURAL SPRING WATER P24.00 for 5 Gallons Pick Up At Plant Site in Pila, Laguna Text/Call 0920-2154126 For More Info Waterola, Inc.

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS MUST B EMPLYD 9842865

Inventory Sale



at special
DISCOUNTED
price!

HEAVY EQUIPMENT / ASPHALT / READY MIX PLANTS SPAREPARTS

FOR SALE

Concrete Aggregates Corporation offers for sale its overstock of UNUSED spare parts for the following equipment:

- CATERPILLAR Dump Truck 769B, Bulldozer D8N, Wheel Loader 988B
- PETERBILT
- EUCLID
- SAMSUNG Wheel Loader LX282 / LX25
- KOEHRING Truck Crane 25T Cap.
- DAEWOO Wheel Loader Mega 400
- KOMATSU Bulldozer D155A-3

Interested parties may contact *Engr. Jennes D. Gampon* and/or *Ric Arcillas* for complete list of available parts, at telephone nos. 651-32-11 to 15 or visit our Warehouse at Don Mariano Santos Avenue, Barrio San Isidro, Angono, Rizal.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
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OBITUARIES

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DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Myrta Gomez-Nazario

of Sta. Ana, Manila

Happily met her Maker
on November 22, 2003 at the age of 60.

Her loving husband **FELIPE**; children **JORIC & GINA**, **JOY**, and **JONATHAN & CEL**; together with her brother **OSCAR** & wife **REMY** and sister **LIVIA** & husband **VIDAL**; grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Ana Church Mortuary.

Cremation will be on Nov. 26, 5:00 p.m. at the Loyola Guadalupe Crematorium.

MARIA CARIDAD V. RUSTIA-FABRE, M.D.

Peacefully returned to the Good Lord on 23 November 2003, at the age of 37.

Her bereaved and loving husband, **Raymund**, her father **Dr. Sergio O. Rustia** and mother, **Carmencita Rustia**, her loving sister, **Bea**, brother-in-law, **Bobby**, niece and nephew, **Janina** and **RD**, and parents-in-law, **Toti** and **Mely Lopa**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla Dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Memorial Chapel, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 27 November 2003 at Santuario de San Antonio Franciscan Fathers Crypt-3 after a 7:30 a.m. Mass at the same chapel.

Whoever
finds his life
will lose it,
and
whoever
loses his life
for my sake
will find it.
Matthew 10:39

SHEELA MAE SANTARIN-MALIKSI

1993 Bb. Pilipinas-International

Loving wife of VM Manny
Doting mother of Migi & Nikki

Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 22, 2003 at the age of 29.

Her loving parents **Cesar** and **Evelyn**; sisters **Shirleen, Sherylle, Sharon, Richell Genevie**; brother **Jay**, together with the family of **Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Olivia** and **Leny**, her uncles, aunts, relatives and friends, request those whose hearts she touched to remember her in their prayers with love and thanksgiving.

Her body lies in state at Bahay Ugnayan, Samson Vigil Spaces, Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Interment will be on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2003 after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at Angelus Eternal Garden, Imus, Cavite.

"You are my heart and my soul my inspiration just like the old love song goes.
You are one of the few things worth remembering..."

DR. MAXIMO D. SAENZ

UST MEDICINE CLASS 1964

Peacefully joined the Creator on November 22, 2003 at the age of 66.

His body lies in state at San Nicolas de Tolentino Chapel, Tandang Sora. Interment will be on Wednesday (Novembr 26, 2003) after 9 a.m. Mass.

His family requests for the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

EDUARDO L. LAGUNILLA

Retired DPWH Director Region IV-A

Peacefully joined his Creator
on November 21, 2003 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Teresita**; loving children **Edwin** and **Alice**, **Jor** and **Beng**, **Edmund** and **Emmylou**, **Edgar** and **Aileen**, **Edric** and **Jean**, **Maita** and **Noli**; brothers (†) **Jose**, (†) **Manuel**, **Juanito**, **Benjamin**; sister **Pacita**; grandchildren **Chino**, **Shari**, **Robyn**, **Kef**, **Mikey**, **Mark**, **Nico**, **Lance**, **Lyle**, **Timmy**, **Alex**, **Gabe** and **Basti** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies at the family residence at 89 Labao Street, Ligid, Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 25, 2003
at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, after the 2:00 P.M. Mass
at St. John the Baptist Parish Church (Dambanang Kawayan),
Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Atty. Felipe G. Medina, Jr.

peacefully joined his Creator on November 22, 2003.

His loving wife **Lya**; children **Beth**, **Bubbles**, **Chino**, **Ito**, **Angie** and grandchildren **Geia**, **Brian**, **Camille**, **Czarina**, **Epicarlo**, **Clarissa**, **JR**, **Mikey**, **Anton**, **Jaime** and sisters/brother **Rebecca**, **Baby**, **Carmencita** and **Boy**.

Relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Narra Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

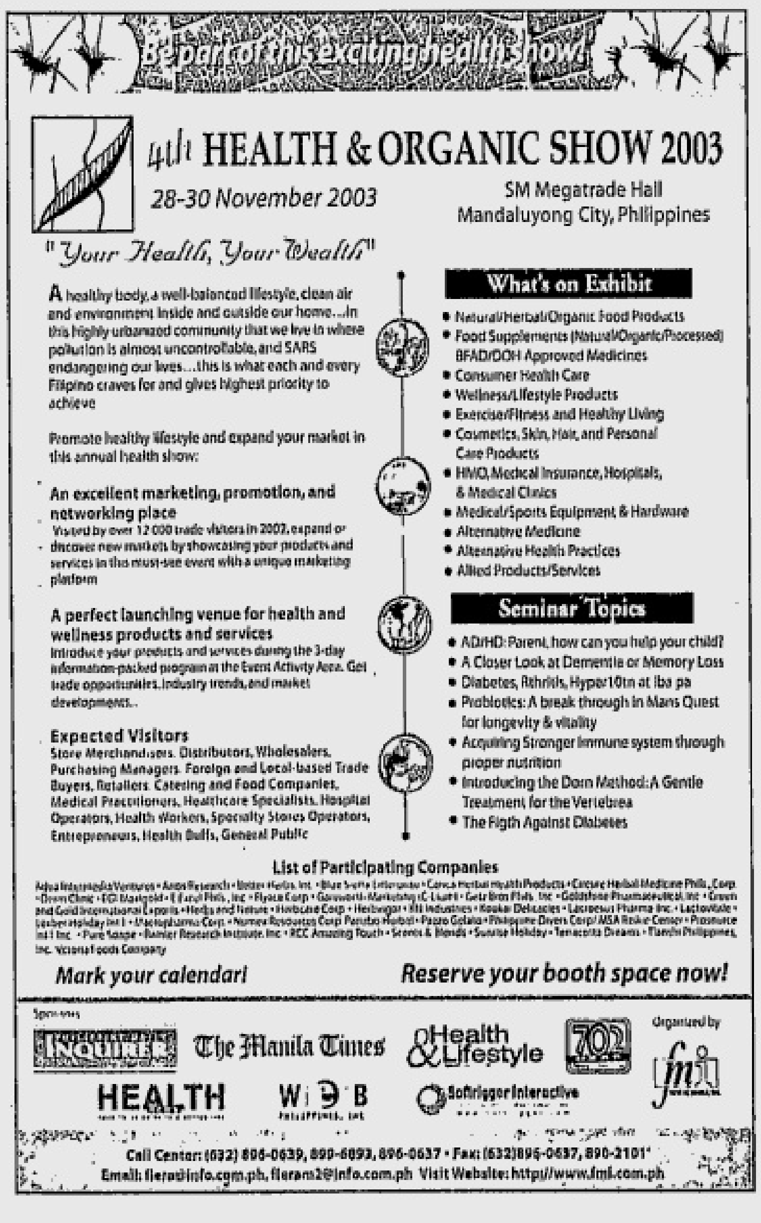
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
• FREE OBIT DESIGN •

CLASSIFIEDS



Be part of this exciting health show!

4th HEALTH & ORGANIC SHOW 2003
28-30 November 2003
SM Megatrade Hall
Mandaluyong City, Philippines

"Your Health, Your Wealth"

A healthy body, a well-balanced lifestyle, clean air and environment inside and outside our home...in this highly urbanized community that we live in where pollution is almost uncontrollable, and SARS endangering our lives...this is what each and every Filipino craves for and gives highest priority to achieve

Promote healthy lifestyle and expand your market in this annual health show:

An excellent marketing, promotion, and networking place
Visited by over 12 000 trade visitors in 2002, expand or discover new markets by showcasing your products and services in this must-see event with a unique marketing platform

A perfect launching venue for health and wellness products and services
Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments.

Expected Visitors
Store Merchandisers, Distributors, Wholesalers, Purchasing Managers, Foreign and Local-based Trade Buyers, Retailers, Catering and Food Companies, Medical Practitioners, Healthcare Specialists, Hospital Operators, Health Workers, Specialty Stores Operators, Entrepreneurs, Health Buffs, General Public

What's on Exhibit
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- Food Supplements (Natural/Organic/Processed) BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines
- Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinics
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Health Practices
- Allied Products/Services

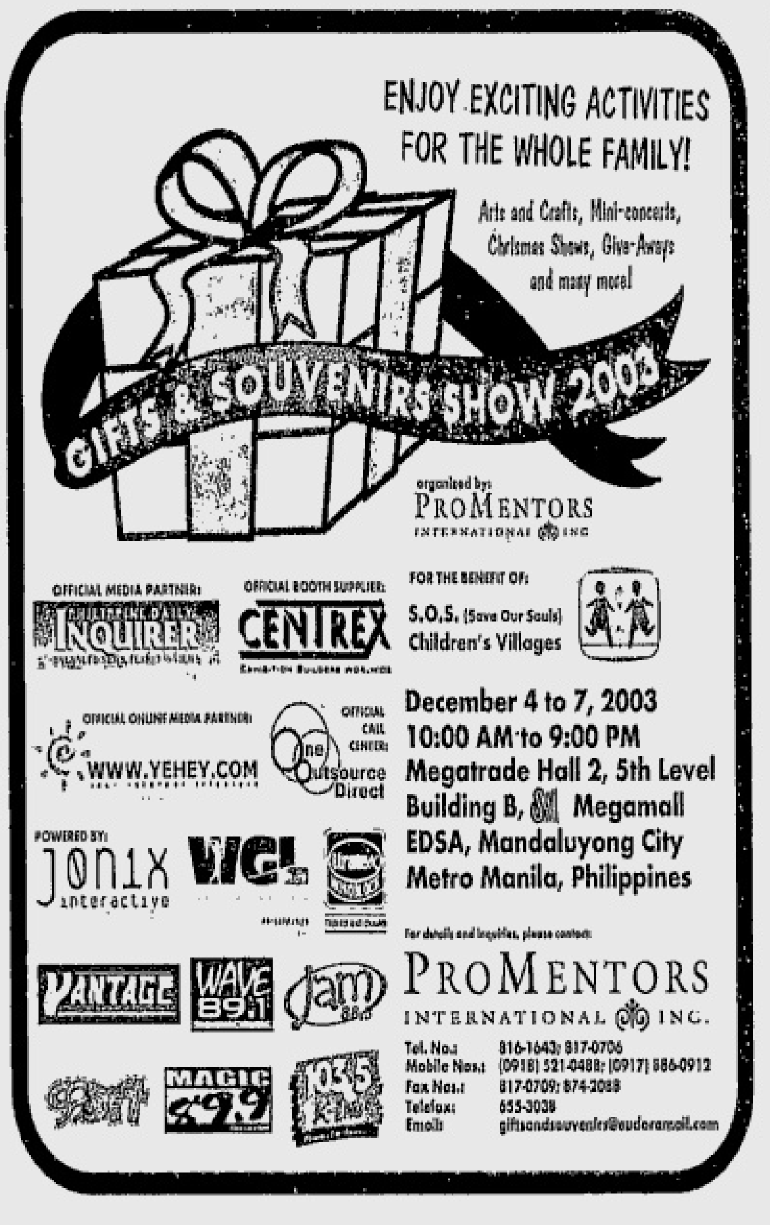
Seminar Topics
- AD/HD: Parent, how can you help your child?
- A Closer Look at Dementia or Memory Loss
- Diabetes, Rthritis, Hyper10tn at iba pa
- Probiotics: A break through in Mans Quest for longevity & vitality
- Acquiring Stronger Immune system through proper nutrition
- Introducing the Dorn Method: A Gentle Treatment for the Vertebrea
- The Figth Against Diabetes

List of Participating Companies

Mark your calendar! *Reserve your booth space now!*

Sponsors: Inquirer, The Manila Times, Health & Lifestyle, 702, Health, WEB Philippines, Inc., Softrigger Interactive
Organized by fmi

Call Center: (632) 896-0639, 890-6093, 896-0637 • Fax: (632)896-0637, 890-2101
Email: fleron@info.com.ph, fleron2@info.com.ph Visit Website: http://www.fmi.com.ph



ENJOY EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Arts and Crafts, Mini-concerts, Christmas Shows, Give-Aways and many more!

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS SHOW 2003

organized by: ProMentors International Inc.

OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER: Inquirer
OFFICIAL BOOTH SUPPLIER: Centrex
FOR THE BENEFIT OF: S.O.S. (Save Our Souls) Children's Villages
OFFICIAL ONLINE MEDIA PARTNER: WWW.YEHEY.COM
OFFICIAL CALL CENTER: One Outsource Direct
POWERED BY: Jonix Interactive

December 4 to 7, 2003
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM
Megatrade Hall 2, 5th Level
Building B, SM Megamall
EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Metro Manila, Philippines

For details and inquiries, please contact:
ProMentors International Inc.
Tel. No.: 816-1643; 817-0706
Mobile Nos.: (0918) 521-0488; (0917) 886-0912
Fax Nos.: 817-0709; 874-2088
Telefax: 655-3038
Email: giftsandsouvenirs@eudoramail.com

Simply the most wonderful Christmas show!

The WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT and FOOD SHOW
back to back with
The GREAT CHRISTMAS TOY SHOW

December 17 to 21, 2003 Megatrade Hall 2 Megamall

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Holiday Arts and Crafts Demos • Christmas Recipe Cooking Demos
• Kiddie Activities • Christmas Business Ideas • Christmas Stage Shows

SPONSORS: Crayola

MEDIA PARTNERS:

Organized by: NeoTrade

A transnational company engaged in marketing and distribution of branded household and personal care products is in need of qualified

sales personnel

for their Philippine expansion.

We are looking for:

- An expert in all facets of distributorship management in fast moving consumer goods. He could have been former distributor sales personnel who started with van selling, then promoted to manage key accounts and eventually tasked to handle entire operations.
- With extensive exposure to trade marketing and merchandising including but not limited to in-store promotions, handling of promo girls, blitz among others.
- A self-starter, thinker, doer rolled into one and work with less supervision. At least a college graduate, no more than 30 years old and computer literate.
- Successful candidates will be tasked to manage distributors in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao. Thus, applicants from VISMIN are also welcome.

If you have what we're looking for, please submit comprehensive resumé to:

gentlesupremephil@yahoo.com

no later than 25th of November 2003. Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

Trans Co

National Transmission Corporation
Visayas-Operation and Maintenance
Banilad Power Complex Nasipit, Talamban C.C.
Tel. No. 346-3427, 346-9449

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANS VIS 2003-14

Pre-bid Conference : November 28, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office
Bidding Dates : December 9, 2003 @ 2:00 PM at the District 2 Office

The National Transmission Corporation, Administration Division-Visayas invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on (pls. see above schedule) to be opened publicly at Transco Bidding Room, Banilad Power Complex, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City for the following requirements:

PR NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY /UM	APPROVED BUDGET (ABC) (in pesos)
PTOM-03-073 (repub)	Plain round bars, 12mm diameter x 6 meters, grade 40	8207 lengths	1,185,501.15
D2CB-2003-161	Switchgear, 17.5 kV	2 sets	2,800,000.00
D2CA-2003-100	Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Camera	1 set	850,000.00

All Bids should be within the Approved Budget of Contract to be Bid in order to qualify.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available starting November 17, 2003, at the Materials Management Services Section from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00/schedule and presentation of TIN/Supplier's Number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents will be on November 28, 2003.

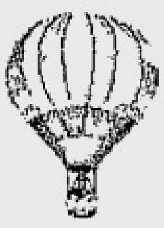
For further inquiries please contact Mr. J.D. Rosell thru telephone number (032) 346-9449 or fax number (032) 346-3427.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order 40 and as amended by Republic Act 9184.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) OCTAVIO G. BRIONES
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 17 & 24, 2003)



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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase of the properties below will be received at the Office of the Branch Head, Land Bank of the Philippines, Legazpi Branch, Legazpi City, not later than **December 5, 2003**, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	Two (2) parcels of industrial lot with total area of 20,766 sq.m.	P3,199,600.00
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	One (1) parcel of industrial lot with an area of 11,689 sq.m.	P4,773,800.00
Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay	One (1) parcel of industrial lot with an area of 11,689 sq.m.	P4,374,600.00

Landbank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality found therein or accept the bid proposal which in its judgment is most advantageous to the Bank. The Bank's decision on the matter shall be final and binding.

Any winning bid amount in excess of minimum bid shall be subject to 10% additional VAT.

For inquiries, please call: (052) 480-6887; (052) 245-5710; (052) 245-5706 (fax)

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO G. DECAL**
Vice President

(PDI–November 10, 17 & 24, 2003)

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (IIE)

Internationally recognized non-profit organization seeks an international program officer for a USAID/ US-Asia Environmental Partnership funded position based in IIE's Manila Office

Program Officer - Environmental Exchange Division

S/he will work with USAID/USAEP country manager, partners and US & Bangkok based IIE staff to develop, coordinate & implement exchange programs; and to create and nurture sustainable US- Philippines partnerships. S/he will serve as IIE's primary representative in the Philippines for all activities and will manage Manila office & staff.

Qualifications:
- Previous experience managing international development projects
- Previous USAID or multi-lateral program experience desirable
- Bachelors degree + 5 years relevant professional experience required. Masters degree, environmental experience a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Self starter, good judgement, strong team player and able to work with minimum supervision required

Please send a cover letter, resume, 3 references, and current and expected salary to:
Fax No: (632) 890-6414; or email to: iie_phil@mozcom.com

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN
Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for labor and materials, (brand new, and genuine spare parts) of the under chassis & engine, consumables and other incidentals necessary for the complete repair/rehabilitation and repainting of five (5) units 10 Wheelers Hongyan Dumptrucks NTC 290 Horse Power, 6 in line Cylinder, diesel fed engine bearing Plate Nos:

Hongyan Dumptruck 11 SDW-732
Hongyan Dumptruck 12 SDW-737
Hongyan Dumptruck 13 SDW-736
Hongyan Dumptruck 16 SDW-735
Hongyan Dumptruck 17 SDW-731

located at the City Engineer' Office, City of Iligan, under the following terms & conditions:

1.) Contractor shall assess the scope of supply and extent of repair/replacement parts and rehabilitation of each unit based on their actual inspection;
2.) Freight, handling, arrastre, wharfage and auxiliary costs, as may be required, shall be borne by the Contractor;
3.) Units shall be restored to tiptop running condition;
4.) Painting materials shall be automotive color caterpillar yellow, black chassis;
5.) One year warranty for the equipment parts and will commence upon delivery to City Engineer's Office Compound;
6.) Repair/rehabilitation shall be completed in (6) six months time for the five (5) units; and
7.) Quotation shall be in Philippine currency with itemized breakdown for each dumptruck unit specifying the respective scope of repair & supply of original parts.

will be received in the Office of the City General Services Officer, Iligan City, until Dec. 9, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock AM at which time and place same will be publicly opened to determine the lowest complying and most advantageous bid.

All bids must comply with the provisions of COA Circular No. 92-386 and accompanied by a Bidder's bond equal to at least 5% of the total bid price but not to exceed TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) per bid proposal. Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to:

The City General Services Officer
City Hall, Iligan City
Tel. Nos.: (063) 221-4340 or
(063) 516-759

All bids must be in Philippine currency. Bids not in Philippine currency will be disqualified.

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The right is further reserved, as the best interest of the City Government of Iligan may require, to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids received, without assigning any reasons

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. QUIJANO
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 24, 25 & 26, 2003)

INVITATION TO BID

Concrete Aggregates Corporation (CAC) invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the purchase of its Top Soil material at the CAC Angono quarry.

Bids should be submitted not later than **November 29, 2003**.

Total estimated volume of material offered is 600,000 MT. Material is available at CAC quarry, Don Mariano Santos Avenue, Brgy. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal.

Loading of material may be handled by the buyer. If CAC will handle the loading, cost will be passed on to the buyer.

CAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality found therein or accept the bid proposal which in its judgment is most advantageous to CAC.

CAC's decision on the matter shall be final.

For inquiries, please call:
Tel. Nos.: 631-2684; Fax No.: 631-2723
Contact: Rona, Jeanette, Joan or Gemma

(PDI--Nov. 21 & 24, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tels. 927-15-17/18, 426-43-32, 928-12-15, 925-53-24, 920-22-41/43

NOTICE TO PUBLIC HEARING

On the PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PEIA) of the TUBAY AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING CENTER PROJECT of the JC Agri. Development Incorporated to be located in Municipality of Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Tubay Agricultural Processing Center Project to attend a **Public Hearing** on December 12, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Barangay Hall, Barangay Doña Rosario, Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All Interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should register in person at the public hearing venue or by mail with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or email at emb_central@yahoo.com

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB (Central Office and/or Region XIII) on or before December 12, 2003 or within 5 days after the hearing.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB through Engr. Elsie P. Cezar or Ms. Jannish at telephone numbers (02) 920-2240 to 41

AVOID ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT
Call POEA at 722-1144 or 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILIGAN
Office of the City Mayor
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the delivery of the following

2 units - Brand New Ten (10) Wheelers Dumptruck 6x4 Forward Control Japan, Europe or U.S. made or equivalent with the following specifications:
1.) Left hand drive, power steering
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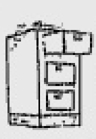

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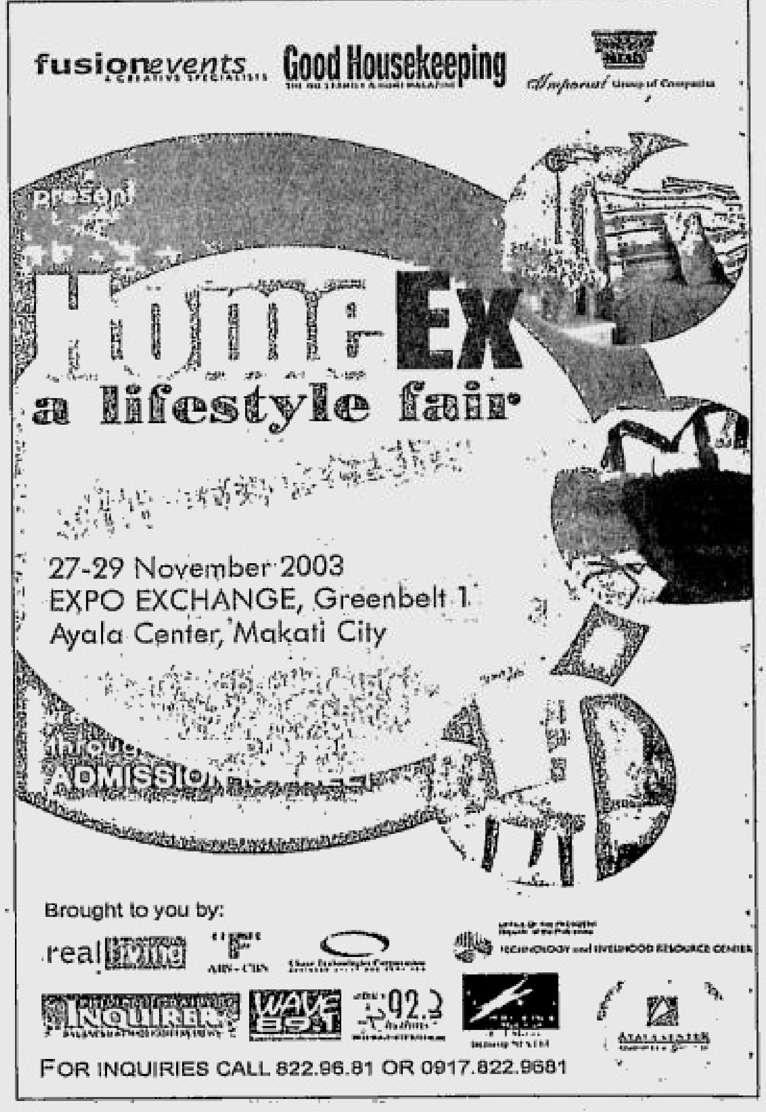

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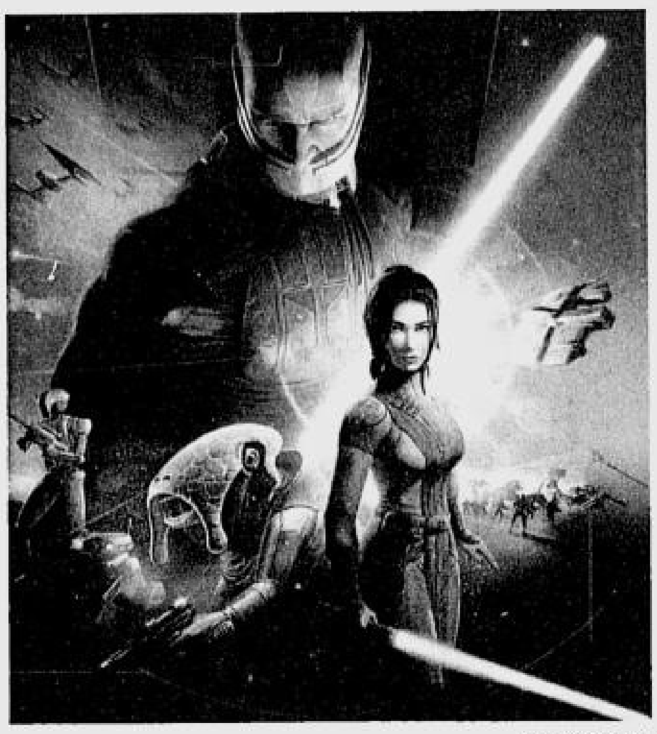
Knights of the Old Republic has everything but Ewoks



By Leo Magno

IF you're one of the five poor souls on this planet who's never heard of George Lucas' Star Wars series, I pity you for not getting into the story behind this saga which happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

For this review, however, we take a look at a role-playing game (RPG) on the Microsoft Xbox which serves as a prequel to all of Lucas' prequels. It's called "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic (Kotor)," and it happened an even longer time ago in a galaxy even farther away.

Published by LucasArts and developed by BioWare, the team behind "Baldur's Gate," Kotor is what I've always wanted in an RPG. It is not too open-ended like Morrowind, nor is it too linear like Baldur's Gate. In fact, I find Kotor to be like the Little Bear's soup in Goldilocks: It's "just right."

Kotor takes place 4,000 years before Padme Amidala and Anakin Skywalker rolled in the hay (or was it the sand dunes?) to give rise to Luke and Leia. The Jedi and the Sith are still at war, and a Sith coup is being led against the Republic by Darth Malak—a mean, jawless son of a Sith whose more buff than any Darths in Lucas' films.

With tons of dialogue (and I mean miles and miles of text and spoken audio) and an intriguing storyline, Kotor lets the player enjoy the game and be immersed in a good tale which, in my opinion, is ironically even better than that of any of the Star Wars films. When you get to the middle of the game, however, shades of Arnold Scwharzenegger's "Total Recall" will kick in. A familiar, previously used plot involving Governor Arnie was inserted in Kotor, and this somewhat disappointed me.

We review this game on the XBox

The production of this game is noteworthy. There were some grammatical errors in the text, and some of the talking heads were overused (I never thought Twi'Leks all looked the same in the Star Wars universe or that old, black men were that plentiful). You'd also notice that the alien languages were not consistent. After finishing the game in 51 hours, I noticed that the Twi'Leks used the same alien-language phrase to say different things which you'll read in the text.

Your character starts off as either male or female scoundrel, scout or soldier. I chose to be a male soldier and called my character "Dagul Mulazwah," so eventually I paired off with the young and sexy Jedi called Bastila whose "battle meditation" Force power is feared by the Sith.

In Kotor, you get to choose from several replies or actions in certain situations, and this would determine whether you're leaning toward the Light or the Dark side of the Force. I chose to stay on the Light side, but it was admittedly difficult since you can do a lot more fun stuff if you just wantonly slice people in half with your light saber. In the end, as I chose my responses to Bastila's questions, I had a hilarious time trying to seduce her. She eventually succumbed to my character's charms after I chose the reply which said: "Shut up and kiss me, you blabbering fool!"

Aside from your own character, you'll bump into others like the untrusting Carth, the Mandalorian (think Bobba Fett) Canderous Ordo, the Twi'Lek called Mission Vaio, the Wookie named

KNIGHTS/ B16

Race is on to produce better content, says SonyEricsson

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

IN THE MIDST of the race to deliver the most attractive mobile handsets, content is still king, a SonyEricsson official admitted during a briefing.

"The handset's features will continue to improve. But content will eventually give different flavor to products," said Tong Kai-Loong, senior product marketing manager for application and content of SonyEricsson Mobile Communications Intl AB.

Tong acknowledged that handset manufacturers are currently moving away from merely pushing handsets, which eventually will have the same features.

The executive agreed that color screens and camera phones are the main attraction for the latest handsets released in the market.

However, SonyEricsson believes that providing compelling content—such as games, music and video—would differentiate the company from its rivals.

The SonyEricsson official also noted that while the handset manufacturers are segmenting their products based on pricing, features and design, there must be an effort to also segment the market in terms of what bundled content goes with the handset.

According to Tong, handset manufacturers are focusing on at least three types of content: entertainment, imaging and connectivity.

For instance, the latest handsets such as the P900, SonyEricsson's successor to the P800, comes with the V-Rally 2 racing game by Atari. It also has partnered with Cartoon Network to let users download images from Tom and Jerry, Scooby Doo and the Flinstones.

Just like its rival, Finnish firm Nokia, SonyEricsson is aggressively seeking more partnerships with content providers worldwide, the executive stressed.

"The content that goes into handsets is really dictated by users. Thus, we really need to work closer with application developers and network operators to ensure that they get what they want," Tong said.

Microsoft . . .

From page B16

China, one each for the northern, middle and southern part of the country.

"I'll be in charge of five provinces. I think I can use in China the experience I've gained from running the Philippine subsidiary. I was able to build the community here so I also intend to do the same there. Building a community is important so I'll spend about 70 percent of my time traveling," Hou told Infotech.

The executive admitted that the local subsidiary has been grooming Javier for the past months to become his successor.

"He has proven that he was ready. I saw that there was no reason for me to stay longer because he already has established good partnerships with the local community," Hou added.

Javier has been the head of the enterprise division of Microsoft Philippines for over a year now. Prior to joining Microsoft Philippines, he worked with the local office of German business software firm SAP for three years.

Javier is among the senior executives in the local information technology industry. He has been with Unisys, Oracle, then Tandem prior to its acquisition by Compaq. After that, he moved on to head the local office of Baan until it was bought out by another company.

Meanwhile, Hou said that he intends to also build a stronger Microsoft community—which includes developers and channel partners—in his new home in China.

He, however, feels that he is in for bigger challenges, as he faces tougher battles against rampant software piracy and strong support for open source software in China.

"I will focus on education as a means to address software piracy. I will also spend my first few months knowing the market there," he added.

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InfoTech

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Editor Leo Magno

Microsoft chief leaving; Filipino named as new head

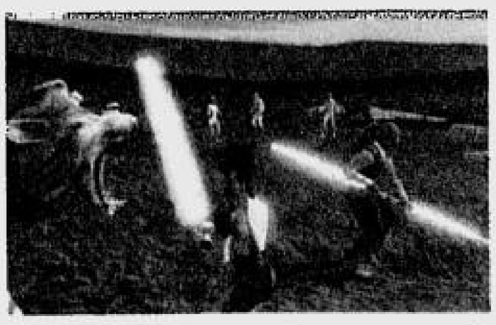
By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MICROSOFT Philippines has named a Filipino to head its operations with the expected departure of Taiwanese national Kevin Hou from the local subsidiary.

Antonio "TJ" Javier will be the new country manager of Microsoft Philippines starting January 2004. He will be only the second Filipino to head the local outfit of the world's biggest software maker after Dave De Leon. Other previous country managers of Microsoft Philippines were American Michael Hard, Australian Darren Lockie, Malaysian Richard Francis and now, Taiwanese Hou.

Hou officially announced his departure on Friday, saying he will take on the post of general manager of a Microsoft subsidiary in Guangzhou, China. Guangzhou is the capital of the Guangdong province located in the southern part of China. Microsoft has three subsidiaries in

MICROSOFT/B15



Knights of . . .

From page B15

Zaalbar, an R2-D2 like droid named T3-M4, a killer humanoid droid named HK-47 and three Jedis (Bastila, Jolee and Juhani). Aside from yourself, you can choose two more from these characters to join your party. My favorite is a two-Jedi combination for melee and Force action, and one guy with a good ranged weapon like Carth, Canderous, HK-47 or Zaalbar. Mission Vaio and T3-M4 are close to useless. The two other characters you select will follow you and aid you in battle, and—except for restricted areas—you can switch the composition of your party without going back to your ship.

You also get to fly first class on the Ebon Hawk—tancestor of the Millennium Falcon—and blast fighters in first-person turret view when moving from planet to planet.

As you finish missions and earn more credits, you can buy items and gear for your crew. The weapons and gear are so detailed that you'll notice them as you put them onto the characters. What's fascinating is, in Kotor the cinematic sequences depict your characters based on your currently selected gear. The full motion videos are not canned.

You can also select the combat difficulty level from Easy to Normal to Difficult at any point in the game. You don't need to reload the game on a different level. Also, you can save from any point in the game (hooray!).

Another good feature of Kotor is the way you can cycle through characters or objects you can interact with. In some RPGs, you have to face each and every furniture, door, object or character to see if you can open or use those items or if you can talk to that person. This entails a lot of moving around and pressing the "A" button all over the place (something which will take much of your time in games like Silent Hill). Once you enter a room, all you have to do is press the triggers and you would lock on to a usable item, a door which can be opened or a character you can talk to. Even if you're across the room, once you lock on to that item or character, simply press "A" and your character would automatically run to that object and inspect it.

You can switch from one party member to another with a flick of the black button on the Xbox controller. This isn't new since "Resident Evil Zero" on the GameCube already did this last year. Both games also allow you to go into either solo mode where the main character moves alone or go back to team mode.

Character switching comes in handy during battles. At first, you won't notice it, but the combat engine of Kotor is actually turn-based. You can opt to do battle in pseudo-real time where you can use Force powers or physical attacks, but you won't be able to button mash since the enemy will have to strike first before you can act again. However, you can set the game to pause every turn. In this case, you can switch from one character to another, healing others or striking or using items for each turn. Nothing compares to the sound of a double-bladed light saber swishing though the air, or a light saber deflecting blaster fir. The action sequence is very cinematic.

Still, I found the combat system of Kotor rather simplistic. With the ton of items you pick up or buy, and with the range of upgradeable weapons, armor, boosters and Force powers you eventually gain, the game is still too easy even on Difficult mode. Granted, the battles are based on probability (similar to the roll of a dice in pen and paper games of yore) but even if you're the unluckiest Wookie in the galaxy you'd still be able to win your battles.

All in all, Kotor is a good game worth looking into. It is an immersive RPG with good production value. This game is a good balance between linear and non-linear gaming.

Kotor has light sabers. It has a compelling story. It has Star Wars movie-like action. It's got a villain whose name starts with Darth. You can have your characters run around the desert in their underwear. It has a "save anywhere" command. My only beef with Kotor now is that it doesn't have Ewoks.

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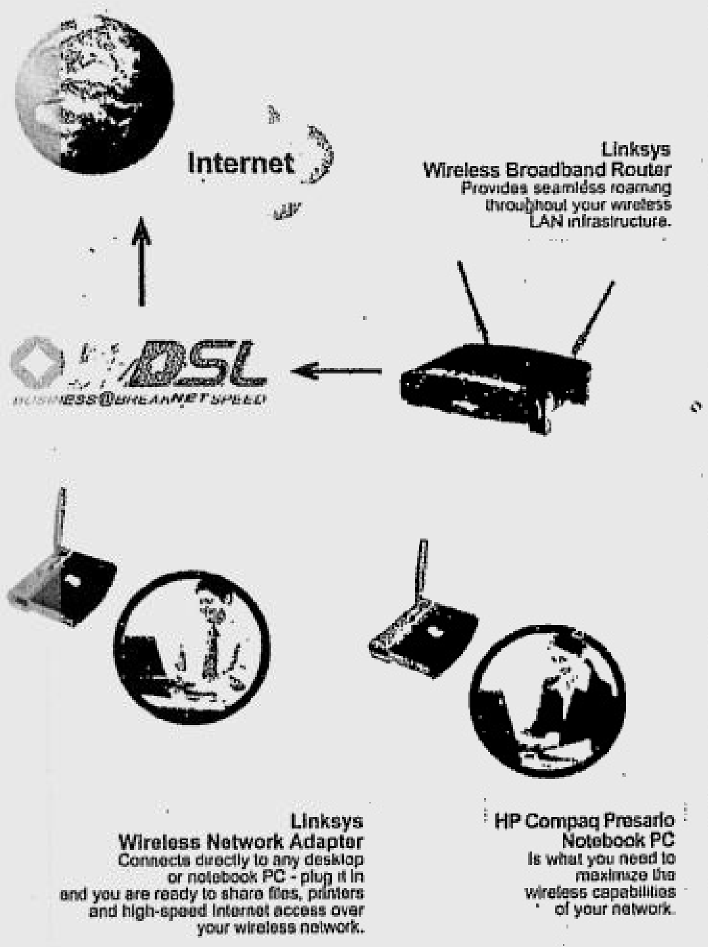

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₱2.4B for 1,700 barangays

Let there be light to fight poverty in rural areas

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IT DIDN'T quite make the front pages, but it's welcome news. Last month, eight power firms committed P2.4 billion to energize more than 1,700 barangays.

The Department of Energy called the investment "a big push" for rural electrification. These barangays ranged from communities in northern Luzon to those in the far reaches of Mindanao. Coordinating the effort is the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

Total electrification by 2006

As of the middle of this year, 86 percent of barangays across the nation are hooked to power lines. The corresponding ratios are 93 percent for Luzon, 87 percent for Visayas and 74 percent for Mindanao.

The government's O Ilaw program aims to electrify all barangays by 2006. This entails connecting 1,500 barangays to the power services every year.

Such work is vital, as the lack of access to electricity is correlated with poverty. According to the 2002 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (Apis), 3.373 million poor families have no access to electricity.

The pattern is seen in incomes. Imagine that the nation's families are cut into income brackets. There are the highest 10 percent of incomes, followed by the next 10 percent rich, all the way down to the bottom 10 percent who are very poor. Poverty studies often examine the bottom 40 percent of families.

Being deprived of electricity is largely a rural problem. Among the bottom 40 percent of rural families, half are not connected to the power grid. In contrast, only three percent of Metro Manila families in the bottom 40 percent of incomes do not have electricity.

The deprivation is most stark in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Of the bottom 40 percent of families, as much as 70 percent have no electricity.

Study on welfare gains

It's very clear that electricity improves family welfare. A study provides the data on how power makes the families better off. The research is entitled, "Rural Electrification and Development in the Philippines: Measuring the Social and Economic Benefits."

The 2002 study was conducted by the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. The sample consisted of 2,000 households in the rural areas of Batangas, Camarines Sur, Nueva Ecija, and the Mountain Province. It covered both the electrified and unelectrified families.

The findings were reported by Aleta C. Domdom in the publication Eagle Watch of the Ateneo economics department. Here were some results.

Savings and security

Electrified households saved money by using a cheaper source of light. About 93 percent of the unelectrified rural families turned to kerosene for lighting. The electrified saved an average of P 1,507 per month.

Households felt more secure. The ratio of families who said that they were secure at night was greater in all electrified areas. Many would leave the light on at night to be more secure.

Families with electricity got more leisure time. Electricity gave them access to television, which they considered to be good source of entertainment. Those linked to the grid watched TV 2.25 hours more per day than those who used other sources of electricity.

The grid-empowered families listened to the radio 1.91 more hours per day than those who relied on batteries.

They got to save on entertainment as well. By watching TV or listening to the radio via home sockets (rather than batteries), families saved P804 a month.

The survey found that electrified households spent less time on chores.

Because of appliances, they used up fewer hours on tasks like washing clothes, cooking, or collecting firewood. All told, having power saved 1.09 hours per day in chores. The savings from this equaled P1,400 per month.

Kids study more

Being connected to the grid allowed the children more time to study at home. A higher ratio said that their kids studied after dark. And of course, reading was easier with an electric light rather than in front of a kerosene lamp.

Each child in an electrified home studied 48 minutes longer per day. Children from electrified families achieved two more years of formal education than those without power.

However, the parents also complained that TV could eat up the kids' time for studying and reading.

Access to the grid resulted in higher wages. Those with power were better educated, so such families got salaries P1,517 more per month for every wage earner than did those without electricity.

Electricity also enabled families to create more livelihood opportunities. That is, power raised the chances that they would put up a home-based enterprise, often a sari-sari store. The grid gave them two more hours per day in business time.

Granting rural families access to electricity is vital to lifting them out of poverty. More investments on grid connections will bestow on them real economic power.

Comments to darroyo@philonline.com.

SOME 3,373 million poor families still have no access to electricity

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

PRA, DTI honor best, brightest retailers for 2003

SEVEN of the country's biggest and brightest names in retailing romped off with the industry's most coveted 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) of the Year and Shopping Center of the Year Awards during an Oscars Awards night-inspired event staged recently at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.

A joint undertaking of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), the national organization of retailers in the country, and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the award seeks to recognize top outstanding retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of success and good ethical practices. DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson represented DTI Sec. Mar Roxas during the awards.

Islands Souvenirs won the Outstanding Filipino Retailer award for the Small-Scale Fashion category for the second consecutive year, thus earning its rightful place in the Hall of Fame. Islands Souvenirs has over a hundred branches all over the country and has successfully expanded its network in the United States, Japan and Singapore.

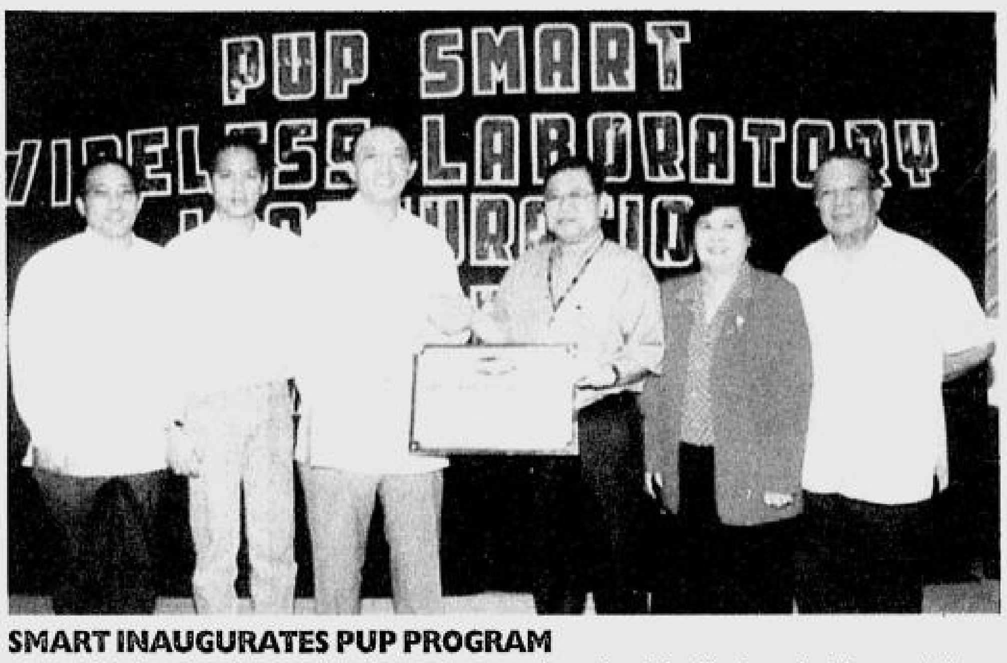
PCX, last year's PRA most promising retailer and another multi-awarded retailer, bagged the award for the Medium Scale-Non-fashion category. Celine, the 1999 winner in the same category of the OFR Awards and another multi-awarded retailer with over 25 years experience in the shoe industry, won in the Medium Scale-Fashion category. Both were also winners in the Ayala Merchants Awards.

Handyman, the fastest growing local hardware and home improvement chain in the country, bagged the Category Specialist award.

The PRA and DTI also named Beauty Bar and Papyvore as the Most Promising Retailers of the Year. Beauty Bar, of the Stores Specialists Group, won the award for its distinctive concept and exciting brands and products not available anywhere else in the country. Papyvore, barely three years in the business, has captured the reading public's eye with its wide range of magazines and publications that caters to the varied interests of the reading public.

Shangri-la Plaza bagged the "Shopping Center of the Year" award for its innovative marketing and promotions programs that have created a shopping ambience that has strengthened its position as a premier shopping center.

Supported by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ayala Center, SM Shoemart, Shangri-la Plaza, Celine, Filipinas Alfa, Freeway, HBC, Islands Souvenirs, and Rusty Lopez, the 2003 Search for Outstanding Filipino Retailers Awards night was attended by some of the biggest and most influential names in business and industry, such as SM Shoemart president Teresita Sy Coson, Robinsons Department Store president Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Inquirer president Alexasandra Prieto-Romualdez, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Sergio Ortiz Luis, Araneta Center president Teofilo Asuncion, Shangri-la Plaza general manager Danila Regina Fojas, Alabang Town Center general manager Javier Hernandez, Philippine Amalgamated Groceries and Supermarkets Association (Pagasa) president Steven Cua, and IBM Philippines marketing manager Mylene Castillo.



SMART INAUGURATES PUP PROGRAM

As part of its thrust to educate engineering students on the intricacies of cellular network operations, Smart Communications Inc has set up a wireless laboratory at the National Development Corp (NDC) campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). Implemented under the Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program (Sweep) that started this year, the wireless laboratory in PUP will benefit some 1,200 electronics and communications engineering (ECE) students, who can now tinker with telecommunications equipment that were only previously familiar through pictures and diagrams in textbooks. Shown is the lab turnover, with Smart president Napoleon L. Nazareno, president and chief executive officer of Smart turning over the marker for the wireless laboratory to PUP's officer-in-charge Dr. Samuel M. Salvador. Also shown are (from left) Smart head for legal and carrier relations Rogelio V. Quevedo, head for network services division Rolando G. Pena, Dr. Normita Villa, vice president for research at PUP and Dr. Moises Garcia, vice president for student affairs at PUP.

Non-traditional medium to work magic on elections

IN THE coming 2004 elections, the question of visibility and reach of candidates will again be tested, if not, be measured in terms of their campaign strategies. For the longest time walls have been pasted with thousands of campaign posters, posts wrapped in a collage of faces overlapping each other and campaign jingles that carry the melody of the most popular song in the land. For most it has been a longtime practice and tradition, but for those who are looking to catch the "voter's eye" nowadays, they will have to think of new and innovative concepts that are both effective to its target market, as well as cost-effective to the campaigners.

The Roadcasters Network Group DZMW "Music on Wheels" is a new non-traditional medium in advertising catering to the very relevant niche market and the first one in the industry. Roadcasters is now offering its services to all political supporters, friends of candidates, campaign managers and cause-oriented groups for the 2004 May elections to give them that early advantage to strategically plan their campaign before the actual campaign period. Since their launch last Aug 8, 20 Cruiser-type 150cc motorcycles have been very visible in the areas of Cavite, Laguna, all over Metro Manila all the way to Kalookan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

With CD players, strong amplifiers and two long throw Bullhorn speakers per cycle, they bring Barangay News provided by their local government affiliates, general information, commercials and music, through an FM-based programming, to everybody who are either out in the streets or in their homes. With the medium being a motorcycle, and good looking one at that, it does not just attract much wanted attention but it is able to enter side streets or eskinitas with ease, far from where a regular recorida van or jeep could go.

These motorcycles are regularly piloted by the network's so-called Road Frogs cruising in your neighborhood for 8 hours, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 6 days a week (Sunday placements and broadcasts could be arranged).

The edge and lead your party is looking for could now be possible, the Roadcasters Network Group has come out with placement space to as much as 16 spots an hour per motorcycle for only P35 per 30-second straight announcements, the cheapest available in advertising placements. Streamers (12"x28") paraded for eight hours is only P50 a day per motorcycle and leafleting for only P0.25c a piece. Imagine you can have your own direct campaign and marketing group. This offer on the political positioning aspect is on a "first come first served" basis with exclusivity per district with party lock out.

The Roadcasters Network Group is planning to expand its coverage to Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Pangasinan and as far south as Cebu and Davao. Since advertising covers everybody and crosses every language barrier, Roadcasters Network plans to further enhance its niche market strategy by going overseas in the future. For more information on the Roadcasters Network Group services and media rates, call 671-7275 and look for Nathaniel Daligdig or visit 212 C. Santos Street, Barangay Ugong Norte, Pasig City.

CORY COMMENDS RP'S OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Former President Corazon Aquino and Metrobank chair George SK Ty (center) stand proud together with the 2003 Outstanding Teachers during the conferment of awards at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium recently. Shown are the 12 exemplary educators, from left, Dr. Jaime An Lim, Dr. Queena Lee-Chua, Dr. Sonia Daquila, Dahlia Fabillar, Dr. Samuel Soliven, Dr. Evelyn Sorolla, Lourma Poculan, Salvacion Calabucal, Ma. Luisa Gibraltar, Lilia Ramos, Marilou Yogyog, and Renato Carvajal.

MARICEL SIGNS IN FOR SWIFT

RFM recently partnered with 'diamond star' Maricel Soriano to endorse Swift Juicy Corned Beef as part of its effort to bring quality food products to more Filipinos. Swift Juicy Corned Beef, now made juicier with the taste of real beef, was launched recently via an exciting new advertising campaign. Also present during the contract signing were Mario Mendoza, category manager, Chili Reyes, brand manager, and Wyngard Tracy, talent manager.

BITS Clips

The Great EXcapes Adventure

SIDEBAR Cafe and Sentro 1771 together Pepsi X and in cooperation with Adventures and Expeditions Philippines, Inc, brings four lucky individuals to Cagayan Valley for a breathtaking white water rafting, kayaking and spelunking adventure. The adventure trip is inclusive of transportation to and from Tuguegarao City via the EMC Deluxe Bus. All meals and drinks shall be provided, as well as air conditioned accommodations sponsored by Casa Carag. It also includes equipment (kayak, rafts, helmets, life vests) and a travel insurance coverage of P100,000. plus a tour of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, and Kalinga. Berly Ang of Xavier Street, Greenhills, San Juan, the Great EXcapes Adventure winner, and three of her friends will get to enjoy the thrill and adventure of this promo.

Asian expert to speak on preventing blindness

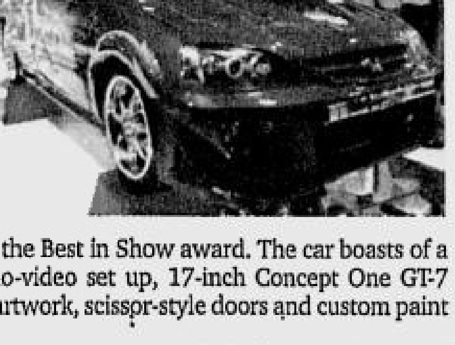
EYE DOCTOR, clinical teacher and author Gerard Chua Chee Leng, consultant at the Mount Elizabeth Medical Center in Singapore, will speak at Bausch & Lomb's special Philippine symposium on "The Role of Vitamins and Antioxidants in AMD (Age-Related Muscular Degeneration)". The talk is set on Nov. 25 as part of the Philippine Association of Opthalmology (PAO) 2003 Annual Convention at the Edsa Shangri-La ballroom. This year's theme is "Conquering Eye Infections", and features the 1st PAO Ocular Pathology course. The talk is sponsored by Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceuticals. It is one of the medical education programs in celebration of the company's 150th anniversary.

In search of the virtual classroom

WITH language training becoming more in demand here and abroad, traditional schools have augmented their regular academic programs with language lab facilities for call center agents and outbound nurses. There is a market for virtual classroom to save on time, travel and traffic while taking advantage of quality teachers and training materials from wherever these may be available. In line with the country's thrust to promote the e-services capability of the Filipino e-worker, Microdata, the country's pioneer in audio-visual presentation and learning systems solutions, together with Sanako (formerly Divace) of Finland is conducting a free seminar/training and actual demonstration of the virtual classroom, intended for school deans and administrators, at the Dusit Hotel on Nov. 27. The new Lounge 100 Virtual Classroom was developed in cooperation with and is used extensively by the California State University. Microdata may be reached at 897-7777 or 896-4021.

Product FILES

Radical Honda



THE HONDA Civic VTI 2003 model sponsored by A-Toy Paint and Bodykits and Concept One wheels recently garnered top awards in the recently concluded Sport Truck and Custom Car show at the SM Megamall.

Owned by Thirdy Icasas, the Civic VTI won the Best in Show award. The car boasts of a customized interior, audio-video set up, 17-inch Concept One GT-7 wheels, custom airbrush artwork, scissor-style doors and custom paint and body kit by A-Toy.

A-Toy offers automotive restoration, oven-baked paint jobs as well as body kits for all car brands. Imported from the United States and Japan, Concept One wheels are available in select dealers nationwide. For inquiries on how give your car that tuner look, call 726-0965.

4AS-P 3RD GMM

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As-P) recently held its 3rd General Membership Meeting (GMM). On this GMM, 4As goes bold with its topic discussion 'Does More Flesh Mean More Sales?' Present during the event were representatives from different sectors of the industry Oskee Valenzuela, executive director of Ad-Board, Manuel Quiogue, president and COO, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc, Sylvia Habulan, director for client service customized research activate, AC Nielsen, and the forum moderator Mike Enriquez, president of RGMA Network Inc.

FUNDADOR REINFORCES MERCHANDISING DRIVE

Alex Proliamante (right), Allied Domecq's regional distribution manager for south Luzon, briefs Chona Macalinga, OIC of Citimart Supermarket about the aggressive distribution and merchandising efforts mapped out by the company to support its key accounts at a recent trade visit. Citimart, the largest supermarket chain in Southern Tagalog with six outlets located in Batangas City, Lemery, Tanauan and Calapan, has been cited by Allied Domecq for its continued support to Fundador, the country's number one imported Spanish brandy. Also shown are Percious Rombano of Princeton Enterprises and James Nasol of Triple Excellence and Marketing Service Inc.

Prospects of credit supplementation in the global economy

(1st of 2 parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jesus G. Tirona

CREDIT supplementation is a financial tool that plays a significant role in stimulating and eventually furthering the growth of business sectors in any country. Credit supplementation allows an erstwhile "unbankable" entity to access funds from lending institutions which would not have otherwise given it a second look.

All ACSIC members provide third party enhancement where they commit to pay the obligation up to the guaranteed or insured amount, should the borrower fail to do so.

ACSIC is an aggrupation of credit supplementation practitioners whose institutional influence over the past two decades has developed "zaibatsus", "chaebols" and many large businesses which now make up some of Asia's multinational corporate giants.

Developing players

For many years, we have seen the proliferation of regional economic groupings (Nafta, Lafta, Asean to name a few) initially structured to enhance their own regional strengths and competencies and thus preserve their comparative advantages.

In 1989, we saw the birth of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec). While still identified with their regional affinities, all 21 member-economies have seen the huge potential of this cooperation in terms of a 2.5 billion population base, $3.8 trillion in exports and an average tariff of less than eight percent.

The world has figuratively shrunk and the market that Apec represents now covers some 60 percent of the continent.

A developing economy within the ACSIC "family" can only cope with this irreversible phenomenon through an assessment and an upgrade of its own general economic environment.

On one hand, there is a need to provide a stable macro-economic environment that promotes efficient indigenous resource mobilization. On the other hand, there is also the need to provide competitive infrastructure.

In underdeveloped and developing economies where most of us operate, the demand for infrastructure exceeds what the national government can provide.

SMEs revisited

Studies show that the SME sector is today an essential cog in any market place and, is usually a key barometer in a highly competitive global economic setting. Their locational flexibility is an important advantage in reducing regional imbalances.

Generally, SMEs would represent 95 percent of enterprises, provide approximately 65 percent of employment and roughly 30 percent-50 percent of GNP in many countries.

Considering the importance of this sector, several economies have passed laws to institutionalize government's support to SMEs. The Philippines is no exception.

The Magna Carta for Small Enterprises passed in 1991 mandated banks to allocate a certain percentage of their loan portfolio for SME loans and created the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation, a credit guarantee institution today known as SB Corporation, which spearheads efforts to augment the funds supply for Philippine SMEs.

In many areas of the world, guarantee systems have become an essential mechanism for providing SME access to financing. This has become more pronounced during the last 30 years. The most developed guarantee systems are found in North America, Europe and South East Asia.

Without getting into the details of such programs, there are basically three main models: a system that is administered by the state agency, a public corporation and a mutual fund.

One common thread runs through these modalities, i.e. the guarantee systems are today a beneficial reality for financial institutions. The guarantee system has, in effect, directly addressed the issues of risk, profitability and to large extent, also liquidity because of a mismatch between uses and sources of funds.

In a global economy, the program's effectiveness should be sustained and strengthened.

Despite the recognition of the major role that SMEs play in nation-building and the commendable efforts of any national government in channeling financial resources to this sector, several entrepreneurs still face the same problems, the most documented of which is "access to credit."

I will venture to say that this situation is not unique to the Philippines. It will continue to be a nagging problem. "Access to credit" all boils down to how the financial institutions tend to evaluate the SMEs. And most of these key elements in credit evaluation will be challenged when the basic infrastructure where the SME operates is itself weak or clearly lack-

PROSPECTS/ B2-7

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*for October 2003, based on CAMPI figures. Nissan X-TRAIL 2.0-liter 4x2 P1,050,000 / 2.0-liter 4x4 P 1,185,000 / 2.5-liter 4x4 P1,270,000 • Accessories available as dealer option • Now available in Black-X • Model shown may differ from actual unit.

The World's First for the Wo

We tip-off our hats to our modern-day heroes—the Filipino seafarers. Their drive, hard work, efficiency, and high level of adaptability have made them the preferred choice as they are now ranked as one of the best, if not the best seafarers the world over, and proving that they are definitely the king of the high seas. And because of this, they have once again put the Philippines on the map as the manning capital of the world supplying more than 25 percent of the world's crewing requirements.

With their contribution to the country's economy involving US$2-3 billion in annual remittances, they deserve nothing less than the very best. Thus, TQ3 Travel Solutions (locally represented by North Star International Travel, Inc., which have been serving this growing sector for more than 13 years now) partnered with global brands—Visa International and AIG Credit Card Company to develop the world's very first and multi-faceted and worry-free travel credit card—the TQ3 Marine Visa Card. The card that allows them to enjoy the best of both worlds—financial flexibility and security.

It's truly the perfect reward at the end of a long journey.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to Northstar International Travel, Inc. and to TQ3 Travel Solutions on the grand launching of the TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Card.

The TQ3 MRC and the TQ3 Marine Card are both pioneering initiatives of your company which aim to empower Filipino seafarers by providing them and their loved ones with financial flexiblity, security and convenience. By conceptualizing the world's first marine travel credit card, you give our seamen efficient and affordable financial services that they truly need.

May you sustain your commitment to establish the Philippines as the manning capital of the world for all offshore workers. Let us continue to work hand in hand to enhance the stature of our hardworking seafarers so that they could indeed be equal to their counterparts all over the world.

Mabuhay ang ating mga Bagong Bayani!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

MESSAGE

I congratulate the TQ3 Travel Solutions on the occasion of the grand launching of the TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Card, the world's first marine travel credit card. I also congratulate TQ3 Travel Solutions' partners in this endeavor: Visa International and AIG Credit Card Company Philippines.

This is a remarkable event, as it affirms many things, among them: the country's stature as the manning capital of the world, the confidence of investors in the Philippine economy and the potential of Filipino human capital.

As the world's leading provider of quality, innovative travel expense management solutions, your company has made an excellent decision in selecting the country as the hub for servicing the global marine travel requirements of all your partners.

I warmly welcome your guests at the launching, particularly the ship owners who will attend the Lloyds Manning and Training Conference in Manila. I sincerely hope they will enjoy the hospitality that the country is well known for. I also wish your grand launching a success.

Mabuhay!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
Global Headquarters
Bremen, Germany

MESSAGE

I am pleased to inform you that a major event will unfold this November with the exciting launch of the TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Visa card, the world's first marine travel credit card. The TQ3 MRC will serve as the hub to service the global marine travel requirements of all our valued TQ3 Marine partners. One of the features of this innovative base is its 24/7 call center facility, which sets a new trend and demonstrates how TQ3 Marine Travel Solutions stands by its commitment to ensure efficient and cost effective transport of ship's crew and offshore workers by providing them with the best available service. Launching the TQ3 MRC reaffirms our confidence in the Philippines' status as the manning capital of the world where Filipinos corner more than 25% of the total seaman traffic.

This is also an auspicious occasion as the TQ3 Marine credit card is being launched powered by Visa International. The advent of the TQ3 Marine Visa Card is a pioneering initiative by TQ3 Philippines which seeks to empower all Filipino seamen by providing them, their spouses and loved ones financial flexibility, convenience, security and investment opportunities; and at the same time enhance their stature in the international marine scene comparable to their counterparts abroad.

We are very much looking forward to this event and to the many opportunities it will afford the marine travel industry. TQ3 Travel Solutions also looks forward to offering continued global marine travel service that is second to none!

MESSAGE

VISA
All it takes.

Visa is proud to present the TQ3 Marine Visa Card, Visa's latest partnership with AIG Credit Card Company and TQ3 Travel Solutions.

TQ3 Marine Visa Card is the first ever secured co-branded credit card in the Philippines, tailor-made to serve the payment needs of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), particularly the seafarers and their dependents in the Philippines.

There are over 1.3 million seafarers around the world, 25 percent of whom are Filipinos. Visa is proud to be pioneering the TQ3 Marine Visa Card in the Philippines, and to provide the flexibility and convenience of Visa payment cards to this sizeable and important part of the country's workforce.

As the leading payment card in the world, Visa will continue to develop innovative and superior payment products to consumers in the Philippines.

We at Visa congratulate TQ3 Travel Solutions and AIG Credit Card for the launch of the TQ3 Marine Visa Card and wish our partners every success.

JAMES LIM
Director for Classic & Co-Brand

Keep your most important possessions close at hand.

Introducing the TQ3 Marine Visa Card.

TQ3 MARINE
TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
VISA

As a seaman, you spend valuable time away from your family. Now a card specially designed to let you relax, knowing you and your family will always be financially secure. Get the best of the world's leading brands as TQ3 Marine Visa Card gives financial flexibility and security for you and your family, too.

- **Worry-free travel especially when you need to spend for hotel accommodation, food, and even avail of cash advances due to foreseen travel delays and other hassles.**
- **Free transferable medical and dental privileges, within the Philippines.**
- **Supplementary cards are automatically provided to the family**
- **Pay school fees and utilities or purchase appliances, grocery items, etc. and pay in low monthly installments**
- **Invest a minimum of P15,000.00 in Philam Bond Fund the Philam Asset Management, Inc. and avail of a credit line on your TQ3 Marine Visa Card of up to 70% of your deposit.**

For more information about the TQ3 Marine Visa Card, call 812-1978/843-33-64 (effective until Nov.30 only) or 885-70-07/885-79-49 (operational starting Dec.1) or 0917-886-3342 or email us at tq3visa@tq3ph.com.ph

TQ3 Marine Regional Center, 26/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza. 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1200 Philippines.

TQ3 operates in 1600 locations in 70 countries world-wide.

VISA
All it takes.

AIG Credit Cards

PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS

strategyinnovationperformance

rld-Class Filipino Seafarers >>

SENATE

MESSAGE

Greetings!

Congratulations to the officials and members of the TQ3 Travel Solutions and Morth Star International Travel, Inc. on the grand launching of the TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Card on November 24, 2003 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

With the growing trend of globalization and liberalization, constant traveling has becomes part of life now. It has become a need rather than a privilege. With the efficient and the highest standard of service being provided by TQ3, our traveling worries are now inthe past. By providing innovative travel expense management solutions to companies here and abroad, TQ3 Travel Solutions has made traveling easy and cost effective.

Moreover, the launching of the TQ3 MRC will set a trend in ensuring efficient and cost effective transport of ship's crew and offshore workers. Indeed, this worthy endeavor will surely upgrade our country's shipping and maritime industry.

I then welcome the guests and participants of this monnentous event and wish that you will all continue to pursue world-class excellence and serve as a pillar of global economic growth. Your efforts and support are vital for the future of the Industry especially in the light of Increasing integration of the global economy.

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to TQ3 Travel Solutions on the launching of its TQ3 Marine Regional Center (MRC) and the TQ3 Marine Card!

This pioneering and innovative program is always welcomed by the government, as it will be providing a special service to address the travel needs of our seafarers and their families.

We are all aware that the efficient and cost effective mobilization of a ship's crew is vital to the operations of all ships plying local as well as international waters. Your specialized travel service will surely complement and enhance our own efforts in government to provide an efficient and streamlined documentation of our seafarers to facilitate their deployment on board the ships.

We are confident that this kind of government and private sector partnership will help us sustain the Philippines' position in the international ship manning community as the world's major source of world class seafarers.

Again, Congratulations and Mabuhay!

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

TQ3 TRAVEL SOLUTIONS Philippines

MESSAGE

From a local travel agency, North Star International Travel has proudly evolved into a global travel management company, thanks to our partnership with TQ3 Travel Solutions. Thus, North Star International is now known as TQ3 Travel Solutions – Philippines. And we are proud to say that we are still a 100 % Filipino-owned corporation.

As a reliable name in travel, TQ3 Travel Solutions boasts of having a system-wide revenue in excess of $9 billion and operates 1,600 locations in over 70 countries. It is a quality provider of innovative end-to-end travel expense management to companies worldwide, owned by TUI AG of Hanover, Germany and Maritz Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri.

Today, we once again forge ties with global giants like VISA and AIG (American International Group) to come up with an innovative product that's a first in the world. This is our way of showing our wholehearted gratitude to our valued clients particularly our Filipino seafarers, the manning and crewing companies, including manning organizations and affiliate groups like the seamen's wives association, who have supported us in all our endeavors.

VIRGINIA D. BALAGTAS
Executive Vice President & CEO

AIG Credit Cards

MESSAGE

For nearly three decades, the Filipinos have been the preferred choice by the world's leading employers in just about every field because of our ability, flexibility, hard work, resourcefulness, and cultural adaptability. Our wealth is far greater than any country could boast of, our wealth, is our PEOPLE!

And its about time, we give them the well-deserved recognition and show them how we can further support their needs during times when help is needed. A good source of support is to provide them with basic financial services such as loans, insurances, investments, and credit card services.

As such, AIG Credit Cards formally announces our contribution in uplifting the welfare of our Filipino seafarers. AIG, known as one of the most innovative and fast growing credit card companies in the country today, together with TQ3 Travel Solutions, one of the recognized leaders in global travel management, joined forces with Visa International and Philam Asset Management to bring you the FIRST AND ONLY "TQ3 Marine Card". Through the collaborative efforts of the companies involved, we aim to provide the seafarers and professionals a unique and distinct card product that will offer them financial flexibility and investment opportunities. Through the secured TQ3 Marine Card, the seafarers and their family members can now experience the benefits and convenience of a credit card and earn on their investment at the same time.

Mabuhay and mga Bagong Bayani ng Pilipinas!

Annie O. Umali
ANNIE O. UMALI
General Manager

TQ3 MARINE VISA CARD, YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER

Global Acceptance

Powered by VISA, the TQ3 Marine Card is accepted in 13 million establishments and 275 countries worldwide.

Installment Flexibility

Convert any cash or card purchase into installment instantly...anytime, anywhere! Choose to pay in 3, 6, 12 or 24 months and enjoy low interests monthly.

Medical and Dental Benefits

You and your family will enjoy FREE medical or dental benefits with only P25, 000.00 worth of TQ3 Marine Card spending. But because its TQ3, you can choose to have both by accumulating P50,000 in TQ3 card spending in a membership year.

Value Grocer

Get rewarded on your supermarket spending all year round! Accumulate P5,000 worth of supermarket spending charged to your TQ3 Marine Card and it automatically earns you special privileges.

Quick Bills Facility

Free yourself from life's hassles. Conveniently pay your utility bills with the QUICK Bills Facility. With this new hassle-free facility, your utility bills will be automatically charged to your TQ3 Marine Card.

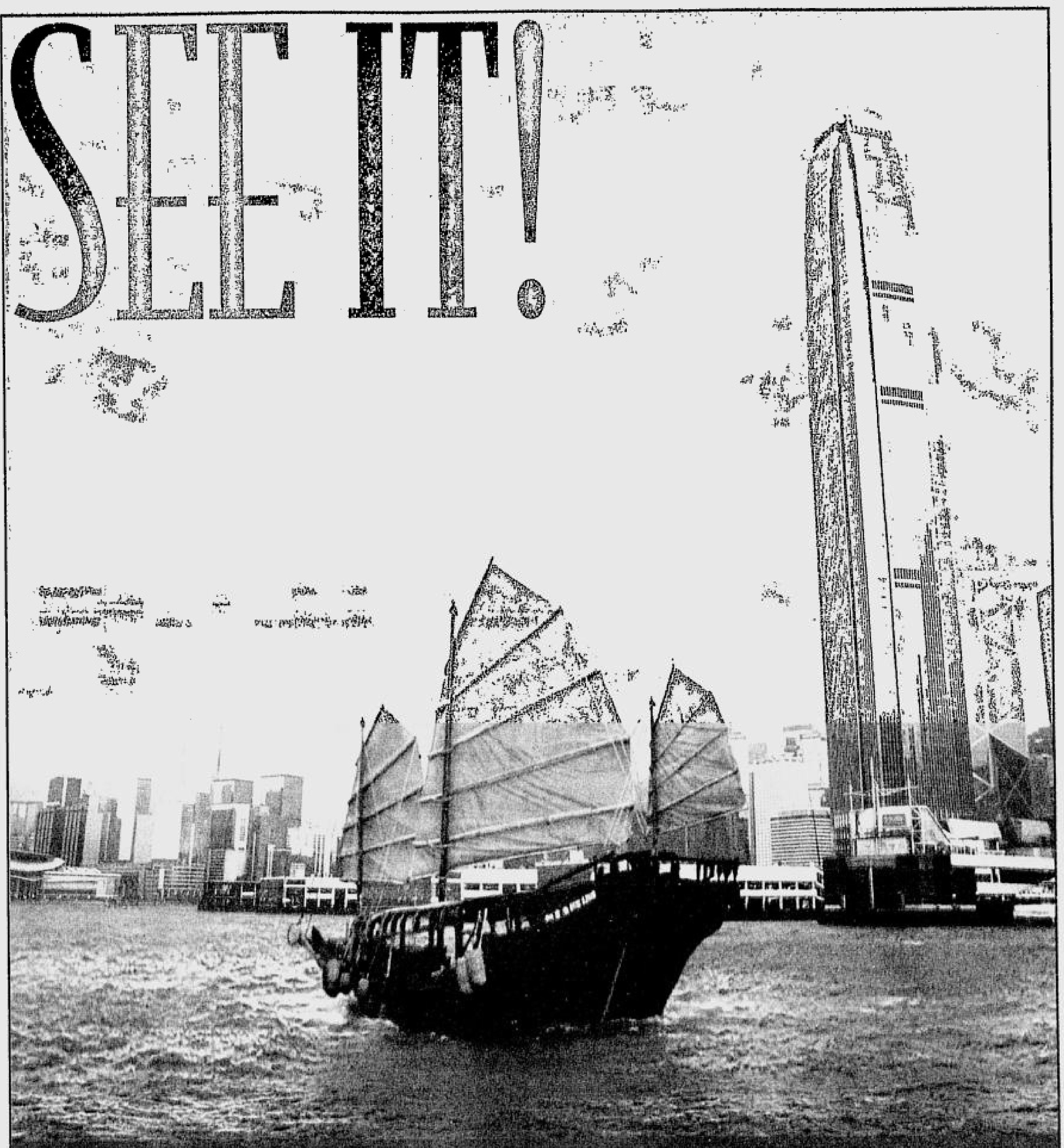
Cash Advance

Get cash advances of up to 30% of your credit limit. You can avail of this service at any ATM with the Visa Plus and/or Cirrus logo by using your Cash Advance Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be sent to you via mail after you have activated your TQ3 Marine Card.

TQ3 Travel Plus Program

The TQ3 Travel Plus Card is your passport to a whole world of travel perks and privileges. This is the country's first and only versatile global travel card that gives you rewards and privileges to make travelling a truly enjoyable experience. You can get this at 50% off the regular rate and pamper yourself with travel convenience, security, savings, and guaranteed satisfaction.

AIG Credit Cards
TQ3
TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
VISA



SUPERCITY HONG KONG

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- Optional half day city sightseeing tour
- Free 10kg excess baggage allowance on return trip
- Yum Sing dining discount card
- Value-added benefits from various hotels (e.g. late check-out, f&b discounts, etc.)

*Supercity packages are available year round, however, above rate is valid until 30 November 2003 only.
For rates and details, call your travel agent or Cathay Pacific Airways at (02)757-0888.
Or visit www.cathaypacific.com. Terms and conditions apply.

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Subic, Clark: Portals to economic development

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

METRO Manila has emerged as one of the world's megacities in the early 1990s. It is the 18th largest in the world, and one of the largest in the Asia-Pacific region primarily because economic opportunity in the country is largely concentrated in the capital city.

Metro Manila is estimated to have a population of 14 million during the day, which drops to 10 million at night. It has the highest population growth rate among the world's megacities at 60 persons per hour. The population is expected to reach 20 million by 2020.

This concentration of economic activity has inevitably led to social ills such as the emergence of slum areas with the accompanying problems of crime, drugs and violence and environmental degradation.

There is an urgent need, therefore, to spread out economic opportunities outside Metro Manila to decongest the area and prevent even more people from the provinces to come to the city in search of work.

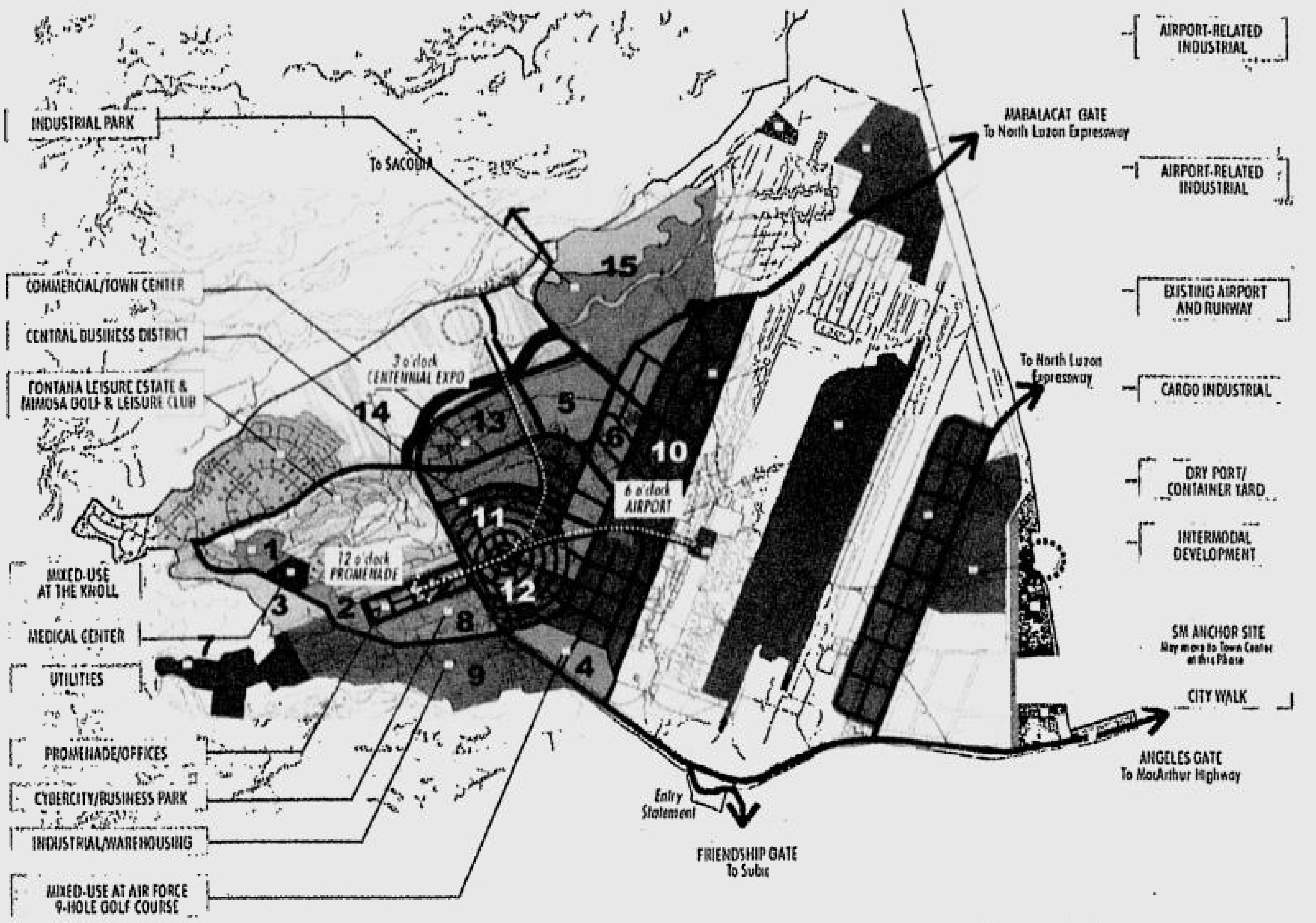
Felino A. Palafox Jr., founder of leading architectural firm Palafox and Associates, said in a paper entitled, "Manila Metropolis 2020 Manila Bay-Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region: Concept Plan 2020," that one way to spark economic activity in the provinces is to develop urban development corridors and to cluster growth centers.

Among the areas with greatest potential are the former US military bases in Subic and in Clark, which form part of the gateways to the Pacific Ocean coastline.

Palafox said in his paper that Subic could be developed into an international seaport in the South China Sea side and Clark as an international airport hub. These developments would be expanded eastward toward Dingalan Bay along the Pacific Ocean.

"(These) will be a development corridor that is larger than Singapore and can be tapped as a manufacturing and transshipment hub and technology center for the Central Luzon region," Palafox said.

Subic and Clark used to be the largest naval and air force American bases outside the United States with the combined size exceeding the land area of Singapore. The turnover of the bases to the Philippines in 1992 resulted in excess capacity of infrastructure amounting to an estimated $15 billion and underutilized real estate property.



FELINO A. Palafox, founder of Palafox and Associates envisions the former Clark Air Base as an international airport hub.

The Subic base was converted into a Freeport zone and it now hosts facilities such as hotels, golf courses, shopping and business centers, gaming and entertainment establishments and a specialty hospital.

The Clark Field Special Economic Zone, on the other hand, has a world-class airport, over 100 buildings, a 50-megawatt power plant, its own water system and a telecommunications gateway.

From the Subic and Clark zones, development can then be expanded to include the Pacific coast cities in Aurora and Quezon.

"The development of the Dingalan Bay port is one of the major anchors of the Pacific Coast Cities. The Port City will not only encourage development in the Pacific Coast Cities but also its adjacent provinces such as Nueva Ecija and Tarlac. Congestion in the ports of Manila will be relieved. It will create jobs and increase the revenue of all the adjacent provinces," Palafox said.

He added that the Subic-Clark-Pacific coast can be a catalyst to the further integration of all regions in the country.

"The Nasugbu to Quezon corridor, North-South Expressway and the proposed Pan-Philippine railway and highway can spur new development linking the three regions and Metro Manila to the Pacific coast into a larger, more livable and more competitive National Capital Region. It will enable the country to exploit its locational advantages and boost international business and tourism," he said.

Palafox stressed the need to firmly establish economic centers outside Metro Manila as he believes that development should be spread evenly across the Philippines like butter on bread.

"Development is largely concentrated in Metro Manila. Counter-magnets are needed for rapid population growth and to relieve Metro Manila from urban pressures," he said.

"If growth is spread out to other parts of Luzon, there will be people empowerment in the countryside through the jobs that will be created and means of production provided. There will be better access to markets that will boost economic activity in the region," he added.

Palafox said the strategy for the Manila Bay-Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region is the development of cluster towns and cities into a more efficient network of growth centers and development corridors by providing adequate infrastructure and enough incentives to bring business to the countryside.

"The creation of development corridors is one way of linking the fragmented society, of connecting a disconnected country," Palafox said.

Palafox recently graduated from Harvard University in the Advanced Management Development Program for Real Estate Entrepreneurs and Senior Managers, Graduate School of Design.

Palafox is the first Filipino to take up the course and the only Asian in his class composed of developers, architects and planners from four continents.

THE PHILIPPINES has unlimited potentials waiting to be tapped.

American company offering customer care services begins local operations

CONVERGYS Corp., a leading US-based company providing integrated billing and customer care services, recently celebrated the launch of local operations with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. The President was welcomed by Trade Sec. Mar Roxas along with Convergys officials led by Customer Management Group president Jack Freker and hundreds of Convergys employees who will man Convergys facilities in Makati and Ortigas.

The company is set to establish a third facility in Alabang by 2004. When all three facilities are fully functional, Convergys will emerge as one of the largest contact center operations in the country employing almost 3,000 people.

President Macapagal-Arroyo commended Convergys for its trust and commitment to the Philippines as the ceremony came less than six months after her US state visit. The President recalled meeting Freker in New York where details of Convergys' investment were first discussed.

Convergys also took the occasion to invest in future generations by donating to the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation which provides public elementary schoolchildren more opportunities to learn by reading more. Foundation president Margarita Delgado and vice president Lizzie Zobel accepted the donation worth over P500,000 for the children.

CONVERGYS senior director Ruby Bhullar, director of offshore support Mike Murphy and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas

PRESIDENT Macapagal toasts the company with Company Management Group president Jack Freker

CONVERGYS senior vice president Jean-Marc Hauducoeur, Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation vice president Lizzie Zobel and president Margarita Delgado

BANK of the Philippine Islands SEVP Aurelio Montinola III, Convergys VP and country general manager Marife Zamora and KSA president Tom Zita

Bank helps bring back smiles

TWELVE-year old Noemi is not an average pre-adolescent girl. She is small and scrawny and is only in Grade II. Incessant teasing and bullying had made her stop schooling intermittently. She has straight, jet black hair and pretty facial features. But it is her severe cleft palate that she is known for in her neighborhood and in her school. Affecting her looks and her speech, the cleft palate has left Noemi alone and lonely, with no self-confidence at all.

Although not a life-threatening condition, cleft palates, harelips and other facial deformities can be as devastating as other diseases.

"A child with a cleft lip is virtually a living dead. He is bullied in school and he would rather stop schooling. He has a slim chance of getting a white collar job because of speech defect. He is doomed to a life of rejection and uselessness," explains former congresswoman Edith Villanueva, chair of Operation Smile Philippines.

Fortunately for children like Noemi, Operation Smile has taken it upon itself to provide free reconstructive surgery for children with cleft lips and palates, facial tumors, burn scars, and other orthopedic deformities especially in developing countries.

Recently, a team of 17 Operation Smile Philippines (OSP) volunteers, composed of plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, a pediatrician, nurses, a dentist, and a speech pathologist, conducted a mission at the Ospital ng Muntinlupa upon the invitation of the International Exchange Bank (iBank), the Muntinlupa City Government and the Muntinlupa Development Foundation.

The mission was to perform reconstructive surgery on 50 children, including Noemi. The cost of surgery was jointly shouldered by iBank and the Muntinlupa City Government.

iBank president and chief executive officer Ramon Sy has been a long time OSP supporter, having organized it in the Philippines and serving as its chair for four years.

"Being a part of Operation Smile has always been a source of personal and corporate pride for myself and iBank. Seeing how these children turn around from being loners to happy kids is more than good enough for us," beams Sy.

In 1999, iBank rallied its depositors when it undertook its "I Win I Care" promo and awarded P5 million to OSP. So committed is iBank to Operation Smile that it will soon bankroll a Cranio Facial Center from the remaining P4 million 'I Win, I Care' donation. This gives the Operation Smile volunteers something to really smile about!

Operation Smile
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FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT:
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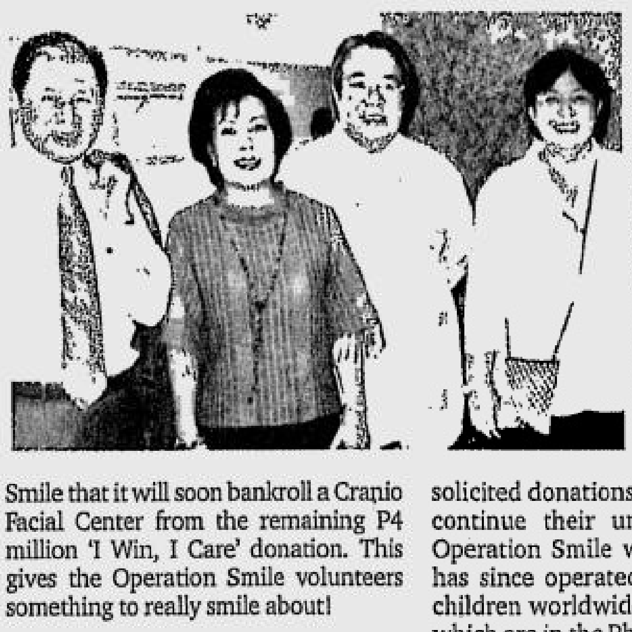
DAN Malate, Operation Smile volunteer pediatric intensivist, checks up a beneficiary.



(FROM left) i-Bank president Ramon Sy, Operation Smile Philippines chair Edith Villanueva, Ospital ng Muntinlupa's Manny Gonzalez and Muntinlupa Development Foundation's Isabel Rosal

Changing lives

Operation Smile holds headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, USA and operates in 21 countries all over the world.

Interestingly, its beginnings were in the Philippines in 1982 when Dr. William Magee Jr. and his nurse-social worker wife Kathleen came to Naga City for a medical mission and repaired the cleft lips and palates of 60 indigent children. The couple left with a heavy heart because about 300 more children were waiting for their help.

When they went back to the US, the Magees gathered volunteers and solicited donations so that they could continue their unfinished mission. Operation Smile was thus born and has since operated on some 70,000 children worldwide, about 13,000 of which are in the Philippines.

One in every 500 births in the Philippines results to cleft, a condition which is characterized by either an opening in the lip, the roof of the mouth or the soft tissue in the back of the mouth.

A cleft lip may be accompanied by an opening in the bones of the upper jaw and/or the upper gum. A cleft palate, on the other hand, occurs when the two sides of a palate do not join together, resulting in an opening in the roof of the mouth.

Operation Smile also trains local surgeons in surgical techniques and

BANKS/ B7

Sales people hold key to a customer-friendly store

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP ISSI

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

IN THE highly competitive world of retailing, customer service can make the difference between a mediocre and a thriving shop. Thus, sales people who are the front liners, need to be nurtured and developed.

A sporting goods store learned this lesson the hard way. The owner at first could not understand why his sales were declining. He had, after all, the most complete line of athletic products in the suburban mall where he was located. His shop was spacious, well-designed and attractively-laid out.

He invested a whole day in his shop to find out why. There was no lack of customers coming in for a look-see. Yet, in a few minutes, most leave empty-handed.

He found out easily enough that his sales staff were too laid back. They were diffident when serving "well-heeled" customers. They showed no enthusiasm for the products they sell.

Most could not handle the customers who find fault with the goods or the prices. Some couldn't care less, whether or not they made a sale. Yet, when he, the owner, intervened, he was able to consummate a sale.

He realized then that the basic sales training he had developed for them was not enough. He was also wise enough to study his own responsibility as owner-manager.

Look at employer-staff relationship. Savvy retail managers nurture their working relationships with their staff. They lead by example. Those who show that they are caring bosses will have employees who in turn care for the customers.

Hire well. You always get what you bargain for. So, don't look for the cheapest person when hiring new staff. Hire the right people at the outset who can be good business "partners" and who can grow with your business. A bad hire means frustration and loss of productivity. Make sure, too, that your store is at its proper staffing level.

Train staff. Staff training is indispensable in improving customer service, store standards and business efficiency. Basically, they need to be trained in the right communication skills.

Communication is important. Every encounter with the customer is a communication situation. When the communication is satisfactory, the customer will come back and will have good things to say about the shop. One dissatisfied customer can ruin the shop's name through the so called "multiplier effect."

Basically, according to ActionLine Retail News, sales staff should be trained to:

- Greet customers warmly, by name if possible.
- Smile, make eye contact and look and sound cheerful.
- Be polite, friendly and speak clearly.
- Show a personal interest.
- Be helpful. When offering product advice, the customer's need should be uppermost.
- Take care of their personal appearance and that of the store in general to create the right impression.

Below are other prescriptions to maintain customer care

- Make sure procedures and systems are working efficiently, as this will ultimately save the customer time and money.
- Use reliable supplies to ensure adequate stock levels.
- Assure the efficiency of the check-out procedure.
- If an item is out of stock, offer to order it for the customer. In this case, make sure you keep your promise of delivery date.
- Deal with complaints efficiently and learn from them.

Invest in specialized training if necessary. The distressed owner of the sporting goods store did this. With the help of a professional consultant, he designed a special training program for them.

First of all, he set work goals or more precisely the goals of his sales staff. Obviously, their task was to be able to serve customers better. Then he set a timetable.

Later, he planned measurements, such as reduction in customer complaints by 40 per cent; increase in sales by 25 percent, etc.

Next, he set learning goals for the sales people. For example, the learning task might be to apply skills in customer handling, sales techniques and suggestive selling. Then another deadline was set.

Again, he had to measure: e.g., the staff should be able to convince 20 percent more customers of the quality of the goods and the reasonableness of the prices and even get them to buy other related items to go with those sold.

Then, the learning was planned. This consisted of:

1. Discussion—He held meetings to share experiences about customers and list down their objections of complaints for all to study. The participants listed down possible answers to objections or complaints.

2. Case studies—He had the group pick out ten of the most difficult cases each week and used small group discussions and presentations to share knowledge, skills and attitudes.

3. Role play—Then the group used the case studies to role-play situations for later discussions in problem solving.

4. Logbook—Each of the sales staff was asked to log in different steps from approach to closing a sales and anytime he or she is ready, the supervisor uses it once a week to record and give feedback on actual performance with a customer.

The efforts have been painstaking but later paid off for this dynamic store owner.

Growing Your Business is a weekly series for forward-looking entrepreneurs who need guidance in their expansion and growth stages. It is a service to SMEs by the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries. For inquiries on UP ISSI training and publications, call 9287-076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.

Bank helps bring back smiles

From page B6

follow-up care, to provide such care to children whose families have inadequate or no health care coverage.

Save for the equipment and some medical supplies that come from Operation Smile headquarters, OSP has been relying on the generosity of private donors who dip into corporate funds and share them with OSP, and on professionals who waive their fees and spend precious man-hours to go on missions.

Plastic surgeon Sonny Santos, on the other hand, has been an Operation Smile volunteer since 1994. His unwavering commitment to its cause has taken him from the hinterlands of Aparri to the rebel infested areas of Tawi Tawi. To date, Dr. Santos has lost count of the surgeries he has done for cleft patients. Easily, they run up to thousands.

"They are so many that sometimes we don't remember them anymore, like once in a videoke bar in Iligan where we had just finished a mission, the singer offered the song to us Operation Smile doctors. We thanked him for the song but to our surprise, he was the one who thanked us. Sabi niya, doc, '*ako po ang dapat magpasalamat. Inoperahan niyo po ako* last year *at eto na po ako ngayon*.' Looking closer, he was right, there was a tiny scar on his lip and he was one of our patients," narrates Dr. Sonny Santos.

Wherever they go, Operation Smile volunteers lug around medicines, medical supplies and equipment such as anaesthesia machines, monitors, respirators, even the lights and extension cords and transformers, all endowed by the US headquarters. The volunteers would go wherever they are needed, usually per arrangement of non-government organizations (NGOs).

"There was also this boy whose parents hid him from the rest of the world since childhood out of shame maybe. He would just be in the farm talking to carabaos. *Hindi nagsisimba, hindi lumalabas* not even during town fiestas. After his operation, his father came to us, crying and thanking us for the transformation of his boy," adds anaesthesiologist Dr. Willie Go.

When Dr. Go volunteered, he vowed it would be the first and last since he had to set aside a lot of things for the out-of-town mission. He ate his words because he never left Operation Smile since 1994, even joining its international missions.

"Sometimes we would operate in public school buildings, atop teachers' tables while using our own lights. But all these hardships are nothing when you hear the sacrifices parents had to make for their children. Some would travel 10 kilometers just to get to the mission site. Some would sell their carabaos so they can pay for the fare to get to the site. *Kaya ako*, I always make it a point to be in the mission. *Basta kailangan ako*, I am there," says pediatric intensivist Dr. Dan Malate.

These volunteers are witness to the beginning of a physical and emotional healing for the patient and the family.

"The difference in capabilities and self-esteem is incredible," Dr. Santos exclaims.

Such is the change that Noemi's mother is anticipating in her daughter. "*Dalawang beses na siyang na* schedule *dati pero lagi siyang kinakabahan.Pero* this time, *sabi niya*, 'mama, *gaganda na ko.' Kaya na daw niya*," the mother of seven children happily shares.

Prospects of credit …

From page B3

ing, i.e. power, water, road network, a place for market encounter, communications, etc.

LGU as economic enterprise

As if on cue, the Philippines in 1991 passed the Local Government Code (the Code) devolving the delivery of most basic services to the local government units (LGUs) and providing fiscal autonomy to the LGUs to be able to source funding on their own for such services.

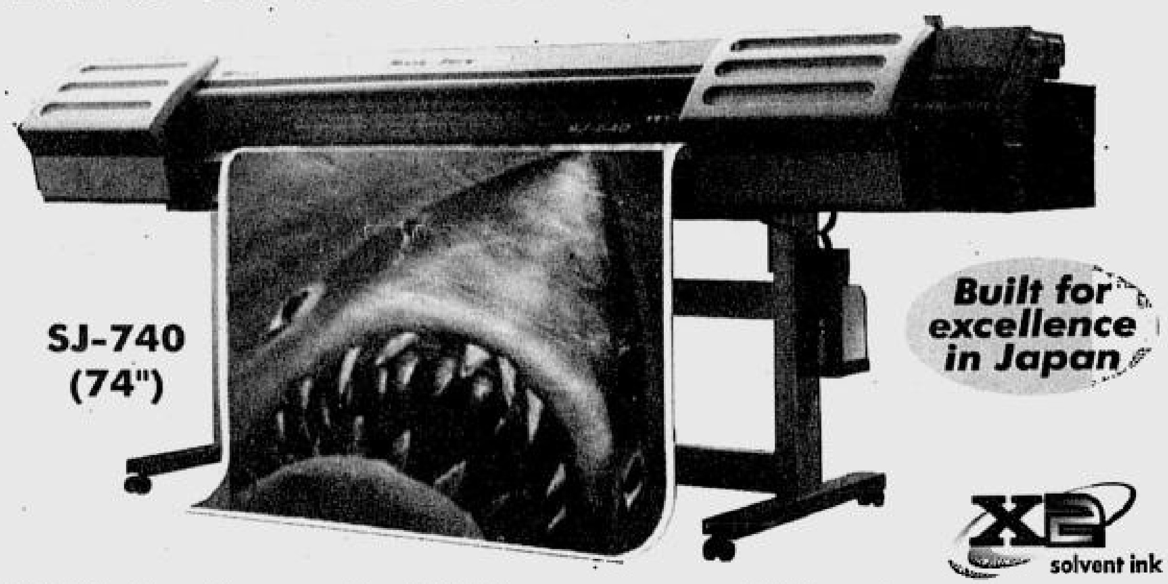
Among the major features of the Code is the right of LGUs to issue bonds to finance revenue-generating, self liquidating infrastructure and development projects. This notwithstanding, the LGUs remained fixated on their traditional sources of funds.

While no gains were felt since the passage of the Code in 1991, its implementation after the 1997 Asian financial crisis could not have been timed perfectly.

While the government continues to experience budgetary deficits, the banking system has since strengthened (through mergers and acquisitions) and began rebuilding their asset bases seeking new outlets for the system's currently high liquidity position.

Finally admitting its inability to fund much needed local infrastructure projects, the government in 1997 asked the private financial community for support in channeling private sector resources to the countryside. (To be continued)

Mr. Tirona is the President or CEO of LGU Guarantee Corporation. This speech was delivered during the 16th ACSIC Conference held on 13 November 2003 at Shangri-La Makati. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph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GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: I was just recently passed over for a promotion. Although the reason given to me was that the person they promoted was better suited for the job, most of my close friends at the office say it is because I do not present myself as professionally as my other officemate who got the promotion. I know I have the skills and knowledge for the position she got and I am more senior than her. Isn't it unfair that she got the job and I didn't simply because she dresses better and fixes herself more than I do?

A: No, image is not more important than knowledge and job skills. However, image sets you apart and creates a very important impression which is crucial in business. Some companies, particularly in the US, job interviews for high level positions are conducted over lunch or dinner. This is done in order to test the applicants' etiquette skills. As the business environment gets more and more competitive, you will find an increasing number of possible upper management personnel that relatively have similar skills, educational background and experience. What sets one apart from the other is the way they present themselves and the way they conduct themselves. Thus when a choice has to be made between two applicants with similar skills, the obvious choice would be the one who looks and acts more professional than the other.

Skills, knowledge, education and experience get you the interview, what gets you hired is the way you present yourself to your superiors, colleagues and clients. If you feel you would like to improve your image and your business etiquette skills, then take active steps towards doing so. This may help you to get started.

Employers have revealed the following professional attributes as most widely sought after by decision makers:

Self-esteem. If you don't believe in yourself, how can your employer expect you to do a good job in representing a company? Give yourself credit for your strengths and work on your weaknesses!

Communication skills. Be convincing, be eloquent in your speech and be a good communicator. Asking questions and listening to the person answering them is an important part of communication.

Speaking skills. One of the greatest fears of people is speaking in front of a group. When speaking or making a presentation to groups of 30 or 300, be prepared, be confident and be yourself! Take a class on presentation skills if you have to.

Writing skills. Whether you are speaking to someone or corresponding with the person the first 12 words you use should include a form of thanks. Give your writing style a conversational tone. Limit sentences to 10-12 words. Your cover letter and resume should be held to one page. Avoid being too wordy or using big words to impress. Business writing is straight-forward and unambiguous.

Giggling. Many people laugh to fill silent moments, rather then merely pausing. This is a distracting and unprofessional habit.

Hand gestures. Your hands should be used to enhance what you are saying rather than to detract from what is being said. Tests have shown that hands above-board (visible) rather than in pockets project a more positive image. The only legitimate form of touch in business is the handshake. A pat, nudge or touch of the arm can be perceived as being too friendly.

Q: My boss has been giving me your articles from the newspaper, and they have really been of great help.

I have been working in this company here for two months and now I'm considering quitting this job. It's just that I'm having a hard time doing it. I was recommended by a friend to this company and now we're officemates.

Our boss has too many expectations that I cannot live up to. He is such a slavedriver! Could you please advice me on how I could possibly quit this job without me hurting my friend, because I feel that the longer I stay here, the more damage it would cause me my friend's friendship.

A: I'm sure your friend referred you to this job purely out of good intentions. The first thing I would advice is that you speak with your boss. Explain to him that although you want to accomplish everything he asks of you, you feel he is expecting too much. If you do this, just make sure you have concrete examples to back you up and that your workload is really too much for just one person to handle. Do this with tact and a lot of respect, never antagonize your boss or place the blame on him or your co-workers. Your boss will make the necessary adjustments. But if you feel things have not changed after a specific time period, then you can resign. Simply explain to your friend that you can no longer fulfill your obligations and responsibilities to your boss because he is expecting a lot more than you can give. There is really no need to make excuses, just be honest and sincere without blaming her for referring you to the job. Be grateful that she opened doors for you and gave you an opportunity. Just explain that inspite of the fact that you are grateful for her help, the job you currently hold is making you unhappy.

Email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.

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MOVEMENTS

Motorola names new country manager

MOTOROLA Inc., a global leader in wireless, automotive and broadband communications, recently appointed Arlene Aran Amarante as the new country manager for Personal Communications Sector (PCS)-Philippines.

Amarante's appointment to Motorola heralds the company's intensified presence in the Philippine telecommunications industry. She will play a major role in Motorola's bid to regain its position as a market leader in the Philippines.

Motorola corporate vice president of strategy and business development for PCS and general manager for PCS - Southeast Asia, Scott Durchslag formally announced the appointment of Amarante during his official visit to the country recently. "We are extremely pleased to have Arlene aboard as the new country manager of Motorola. She brings a broad base of sales, marketing and management experience to the position and is ideally suited to successfully lead the Motorola operations in the Philippines," Durchslag said.

Amarante, as the chief officer of Motorola Philippines' Personal Communications Sector, brings with her 18 years of professional background that covers the field of sales and marketing management, which makes her best qualified for the position.

Prior to her joining Motorola, she was national sales manager for Sara Lee Branded Apparel. In her brief stint in Sara Lee, she provided the necessary infrastructure to restructure the sales organization, improve profitability and achieve sales targets. Today, Hanes and Hanes Her Way are leaders in the apparel business in terms of value and innovation.

She has served as the national sales manager of L'Oreal Philippines Inc. and has been responsible for the company's overall sales strategy development in terms of sales, profitability, merchandising, distribution, account receivables and product range, as well as for the development of customized account programs for Watson's, Robinson's and Rustan's.

For a year, Amarante has also been L'Oreal's national sales manager for Key Accounts, where she was in-charge of the development and growth of the company's major key accounts that constitute a major component of the total consumer division business. She was also a member of the Management Committee–Division Level.

In her 2nd year in L'Oreal, Amarante was bequeathed the "Top Employee of the Company" award in 2001, "Most Resilient Manager Award" for 2000, and was merited for the implementation of different programs and schemes that resulted to a marked improvement in the professionalization of the sales organization and the dramatic turnaround in sales and account receivables. L'Oreal is now a strong leader in the Personal Care Category–Retail Sector.

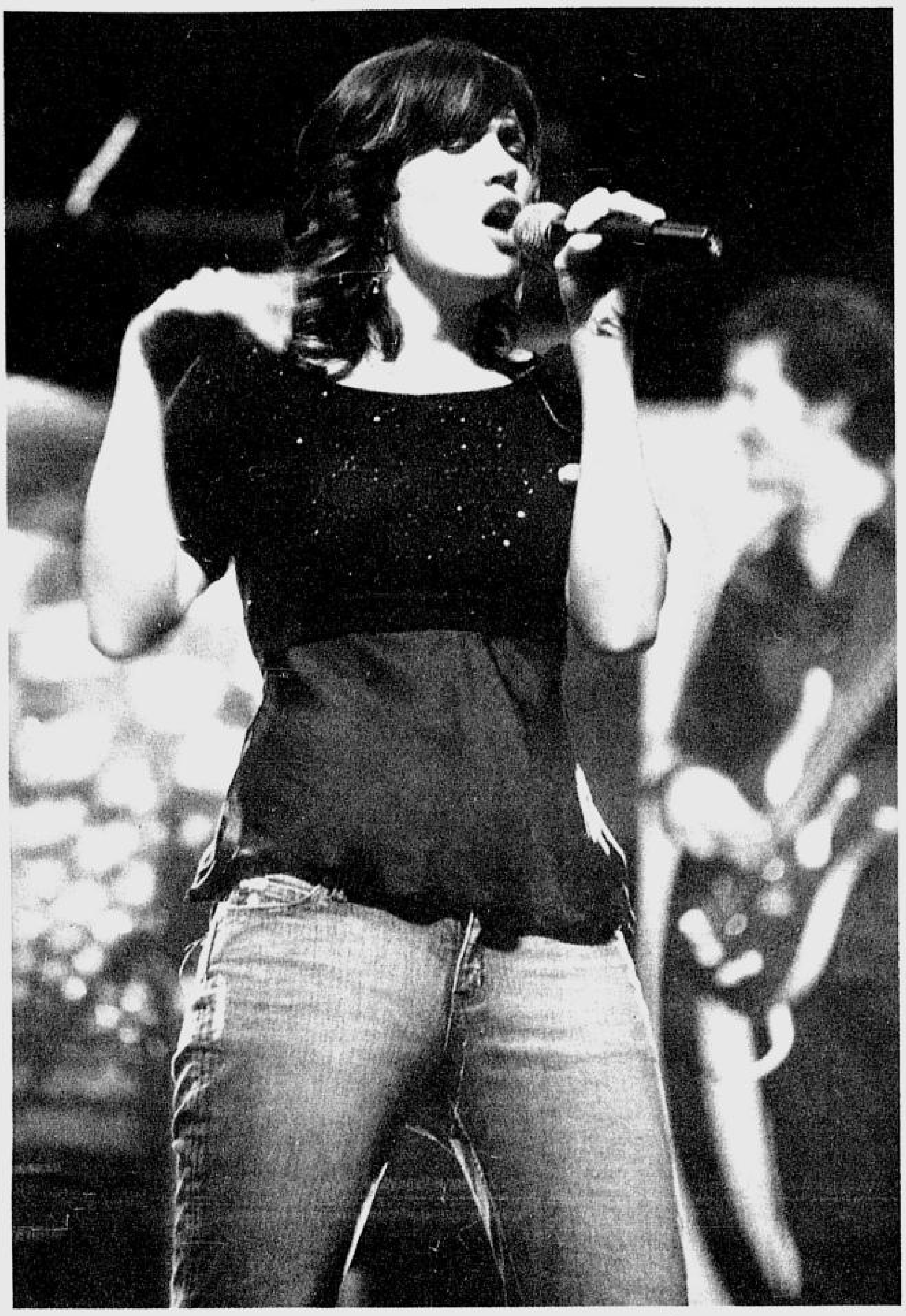
Prior to L'Oreal, Amarante was in-charge of the management of sales and marketing programs of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines Inc. as the National Trade Marketing Manager for three years and before that, as trade marketing manager for two years. Likewise, she was a member of the Management Committee–Department Level.

During her stint in Colgate-Palmolive, Amarante had the distinction of being the sole candidate in Asia for the Associate Director position for Colgate New York. She also received the "You Can Make A Difference Award," which is a Colgate-Palmolive Chairman's Award, for the year 1997-1998. She had a knack for conceptualizing and implementing ground-breaking strategies and innovative programs that resulted to a marked increase in the sales output and improved overall business operations.

She has also served as Brand Manager and eventually, Marketing Head for Goya, Kean's and Hershey's of Philippine Cocoa Corp., a subsidiary then of Metro Pacific Corp., where she made a mark for the achievement of sales and volume growth for major brands. As local store marketing manager and then product manager of Golden Donuts, local franchise holder of Dunkin Donuts, she was responsible for its sustained fast food share standing, ranking third next to Jollibee and McDonald's.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino



LESS IS MOORE. The US pop princess leaves her fans wanting more in her Araneta Coliseum concert. ROMY HOMILLADA

10 songs, one costume in short Mandy show at unfilled Big Dome

By Marinel R. Cruz

POP star Mandy Moore sang only 10 songs in her short show at the Araneta Coliseum Thursday night, leaving the crowd chanting, "We want Moore! We want Moore!"

Mandy failed to fill up the 20,000-seater Araneta Coliseum. The tickets must have been too costly for her young fans: P5,000, P3,000 P1,300 and P600.

But many fans saw her for free last Friday night at the "MTV Music Summit" at the Fort in Taguig, where she sang four songs to an audience of about 10,000.

Many people at the Araneta Coliseum were disappointed when the 19-year-old singer and actress sang only three of her hits—"I Wanna Be With You," "Cry" and "Only Hope." Her other numbers were mostly from her new album, "Coverage," which includes revivals of classics from the '70s by Elton John, Todd Rundgren, Carole King, Joan Armatrading and The Waterboys.

Her followers, mostly girls 18 years old and younger, expected her to sing her more popular songs like "Crush," "Someday We'll Know" and "Candy." But Mandy, who performed with a five-piece band, said she wanted to escape from "the blond 'Candy' girl" that she was three years ago.

"I've grown up now and I want people to see that," she had said in a press conference last Tuesday.

Her performance showed vocal maturity and heart with her versions of "Can We Still Be Friends," "Moonshadow," "Have a Little Faith in Me," "One Way or the Other" and "Drop the Pilot."

She did not sing any lung-buster, but her presence and her music were enough to delight her fans. It also helped that her spiels were "very informative," as one Mandy die-hard fan described it.

Before singing John Hiatt's "Have a Little Faith in Me," she said, "Someday, when I get married, I want this song to be played on my wedding because I find it very romantic."

When the crowd asked her for more, she sang "Cry," the theme from the movie based on Nicholas Sparks' best-selling novel, "A Walk to Remember." The movie won for Mandy the MTV Movie Award for breakthrough performance in 2002.

Her fans were eager to see what Mandy would be wearing in her show. But the singer did not have any costume change, finishing the show in just one outfit—a black beaded blouse, tattered denims and high-heeled boots.

Mandy has been a model of the Philippine clothing company Penshoppe since October 2000. Her talent fee reportedly was "a little more" than the talent fee of megastar Sharon Cuneta, the country's top female product endorser.

10 SONGS/ C6

Cheche not retiring, just slowing down

By Marge C. Enriquez

THE "PROBE TEAM" airs its final episode on Tuesday, Nov. 25, on GMA 7—after producing 2,242 stories and winning 29 local prizes and three international awards.

The last episode, "Ang Aming Kuwento, Ang Huling Kabanata," will feature its anniversary reports, behind-the-scene reportage and a tribute to Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro, the Probe Productions president and anchor person.

Lazaro isn't about to get mushy about the last show, even if she admits that she is saddened that a longtime relationship could end so abruptly because of one story.

"On the other side, there is a reason for celebrating," she said. "We lasted for 16 years when we batted for only one. The people I worked with are doing well in their respective fields. That goes back to us—the camaraderie, the growth we experienced together.

"It is a celebration that we have had a caring team that produces the show not as work but as part of its mission orientation, which is rare nowadays."

Uncertainty is the only thing that Lazaro is certain about as far as the investigative news magazine is concerned. For now, she wants to spend more time with her husband and visit her daughter in Boston. She has no plans of retiring, only of slowing down.

"I think we deserve a rest," she said. "I hope the Probe Team doesn't die. It has made some contribution to the industry. It has much more to give. We have had more than 100 people who have passed through the Probe Team. They are in the industry. Whatever they can contribute will put a positive mark on the industry. With that alone, we have achieved our objectives."

Lazaro's decision to terminate the show even before its contract with GMA 7 expired was spurred by the network's censure of the show's lifestyle check report on Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chief Efraim Genuino. The network claimed that the episode had incomplete documentation.

Letting go

The most admirable thing about Lazaro's decision is that she knows when to let go instead of holding on. She believes she has made a contribution to the broadcast industry by training such talents as Maria Ressa, now CNN Southeast Asia bureau chief, and Luchi Cruz-Valdez, now an ABS-CBN executive.

"PROBE" POWER. Lazaro (right) celebrates with "Probe" graduates Luchi Cruz-Valdez (left) and Maria Ressa

Lazaro had always been fascinated by news. As a teenager, she marveled at the groundbreaking investigative television show, "60 Minutes." In local journalism, she admired the in-depth series on an opium den by Rodolfo Reyes, then a reporter for the old Manila Times.

Said Lazaro, "My impression was, what a way to get a story! It was enterprise journalism. You go out with the story and don't report just facts and figures. It's experiential. This was what the Probe Team was all about."

"The Probe Team" started out as a vision of an investigative news magazine.

"When we began, we didn't expect to go be-

CHECHE/ C7

RAMSEY ROMY HOMILLADA

In Derek Ramsey's den /C2

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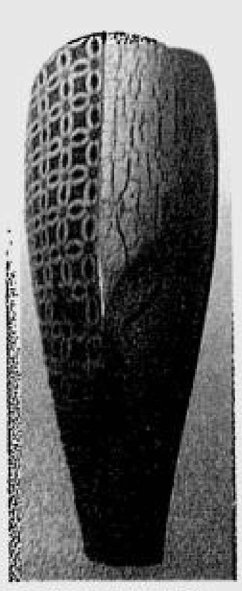
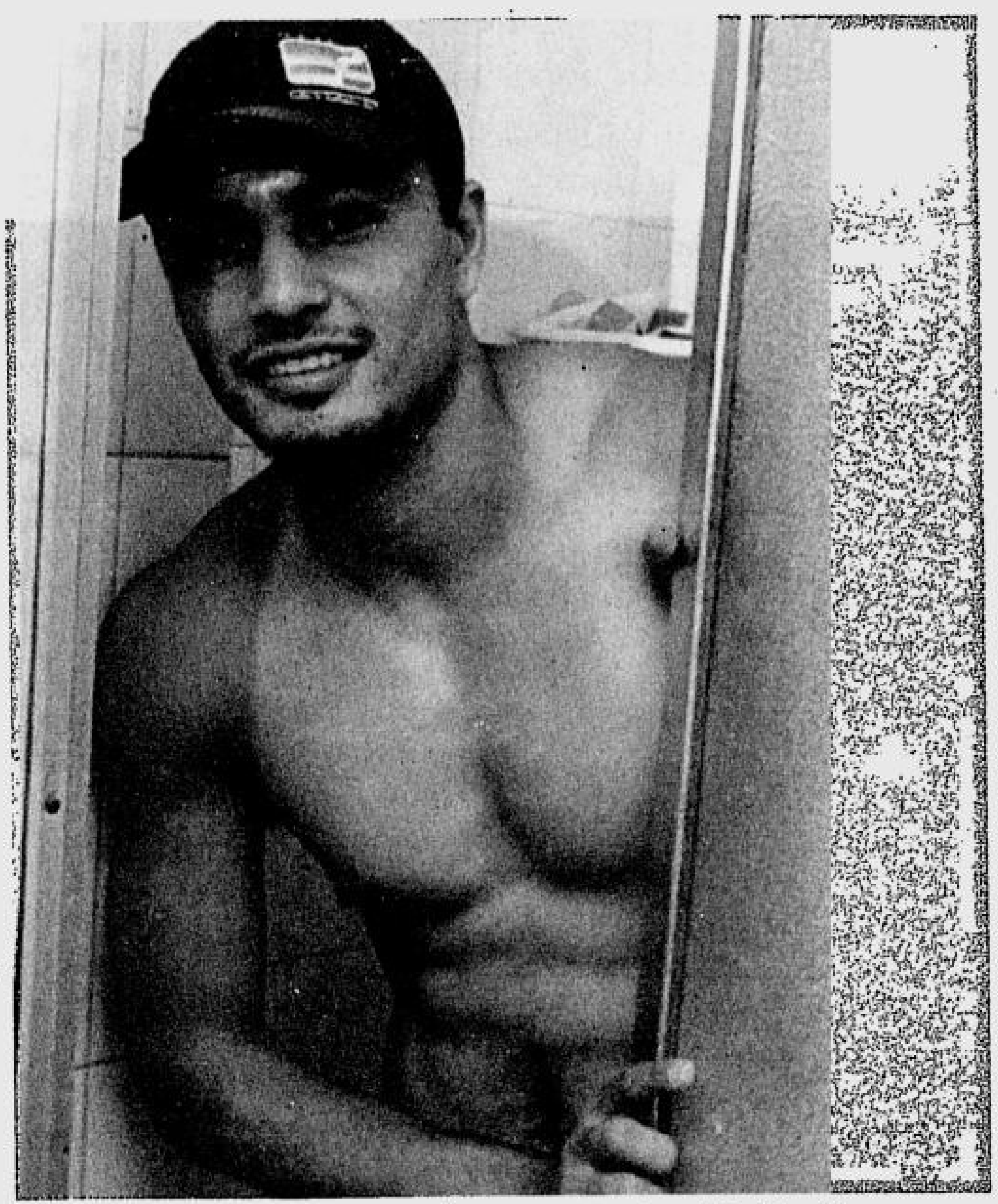
FASTING PYTHON. His pet Zoolander has not had a decent meal for six weeks.



PICK-UP LINE. His sister, who owns a furniture shop, goes around Asia picking unusual pieces like this one.



SHOWER CAP. Used to Oxygen asking him to undress, he takes off his shirt without a complaint for this shot.

Photos by Romy Homillada

In Derek's den

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

THE BRAND that hired Derek Ramsey to wear its clothes also wants him to take them off.

"Sometimes, Oxygen doesn't want to make me wear clothes," says Derek, the Filipino-British model who endorses that brand as well as Addict Mobile and who is also an MTV VJ. He adds in a charming mix of English and Filipino, "*Kasi* I'm always naked in their shoots *eh*," and then he breaks into laughter.

In fact, even INQUIRER Entertainment asks him to take off his shirt for a shot in his shower during this interview. The 26-year-old hunk obliges, on one condition: "Can I keep my cap on?"

Derek keeps his body fit by working out at the gym every day after work. He is a business development manager in his father's security agency, which allows him to keep his video jockeying and modeling jobs on the side.

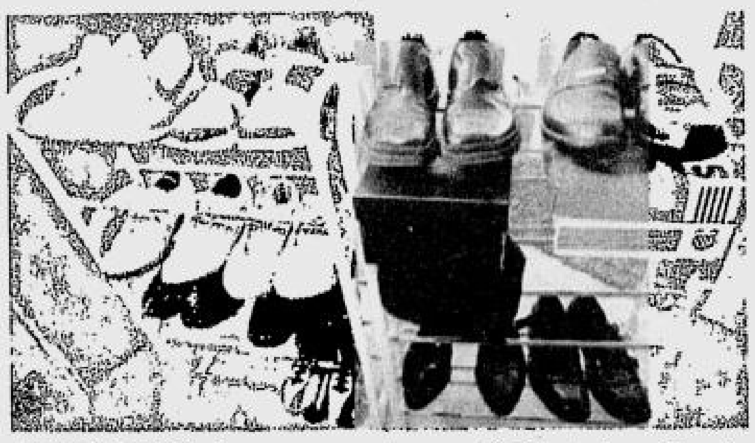
"The modeling thing, the entire celebrity thing, made me feel bored," confesses Derek, who doesn't mind waking up at 8 a.m. to report for his day job. "I decided to use my brain a bit so I started working for my dad."

Derek's dad is British and his mom is a Filipina. He was born and raised in England and lived there for seven years. Then he came to the Philippines to study in a British school and went back to England for college, where he finished marketing. He also studied in Boston. Finally, he decided to come back to the Philippines three years ago—this time for good.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

'The entire celebrity thing bored me. I decided to use my brain a bit so I started working for my dad'

NOT OXYGEN. As the writing says, this shirt came from England



STEPPING UP. His footwear ranges from scruffy Nike to formal Gucci.

HEADY COLLECTION. He has about 100 of these, but his favorite one he doesn't wear.

He says his pad in Makati serves only as a halfway house. His family has a house in Tagaytay City, and he goes home there every weekend.

"I don't want to live in the city," he says. "I've been living in the city for too long. I've been in London, studied in Boston. I like to try and live outside (the city)."

Paintings

When a first-time visitor steps into Derek's studio, the focal point seems to be a 50-inch flat projector TV where Derek watches all his favorite sports and movies on DVDs and where he also plays his Xbox. On the wall behind the TV are paintings of two of his friends. Another painting, which Derek himself did, hangs on the dressing room wall.

On the floor in front of the TV is a real kangaroo-skin rug, a birthday gift from his dad. He says it is not cruel to keep a kangaroo-skin rug in his house because there are too many kangaroos. "Hundreds of kangaroos die on the road every day because of road kill in Australia," he says, "so that's probably just one that got hit on the road."

It immediately becomes apparent to the visitor, however, that the studio's focus is neither the huge TV screen nor the kangaroo skin. It's Zoolander, a Burmese python that is more than one meter long.

During the interview, Derek says he hasn't fed Zoolander for six weeks. Otherwise, he feeds it with mice or chicks and he enjoys watching it devour them. "You should see it when it's eating, dude," he says. "It's cool. That's why I bought it."

For somebody who claims he was just "fooled" into joining the MTV VJ Hunt 2001, Derek does a quite an impressive job. Friends had convinced him he was having a screen test for a commercial; it turned out to be for the VJ search. Now, he hosts MTV Alternative Nation, Be Seen at MTV and MTV Lokal.

"I didn't back out (of the contest)," he says, "because I'm the type of person who, if there's an opportunity, I just grab it."

Sports cars

He is crazy about sports cars. What he's driving right now is a Nissan 200 SX, which costs about US$50,000, or more than P2 million. He used to drive a BMW 5 Series, a mid-size luxury sports sedan which is just as expensive.

Aside from keeping his body fit with daily workouts, he also engages in several sports. He's into wakeboarding, a form of waterskiing where both feet are planted on a board that is a cross between a water ski and a kneeboard.

He also plays golf, which he learned when he was 10.

"My dad taught me how to play golf," he says. "My bag for my first set of clubs *nga* was pink! I didn't really want to play golf then but my dad brought me to the golf course and told me to bring my mom's bag. I was so embarrassed."

Passion

Derek is also into basketball, soccer, football, rugby and cricket. He says he played a lot of sports in England, where he was a member of football, rugby and cricket teams. "That's really my passion, sports," he adds.

Shirts. "Let's see, this one I got in England. And it's the World Cup right now, so I'm gonna be wearing this on Sunday, getting drunk and screaming.

"This one of Oxygen I like. I like their shirts *eh. Kasi* I'm really an easy-going kind of guy and I like to wear comfortable clothes. I have nearly every single t-shirt Oxygen has come out with. I just like to get the t-shirts. I'm not really into the formal model look kind of thing. I only do that when I have to but when I go out, that's why my manager gets mad because I go out like this, in t-shirt, cap, jeans and rubber shoes."

Jeans. "I use the Oxygen jeans too. Uhm, all my pants are basically . . . nearly everything is Oxygen. I like their slacks. I have a lot of khaki pants. I like neutral colors. I'm not into bright colors. I don't even think about bright colors."

Formal wear. "My favorites for formal are Kenneth Cole and Dolce and Gabbana."

Slacks. "I like this pair because it's different and it stands out. It's not really plain black. It's also Kenneth Cole."

Date attire. "If I go out on a date during the day, I go out like this—take me as I am. But if it's in the evening, and that's a dinner, I'll dress up a bit. Maybe I'll wear the shirt that I model for Oxygen in the billboard. This one,, every time I go out wearing this, I get complimented for the shirt."

Caps. "I can't leave my house without a hat on my head. My favorite hat I don't wear—this 76ers cap. I really have about a hundred hats and about 40 of them are Oxygen."

Formal shoes. "For work, I wear this (Gucci). I've had it for a long time. For formal, Dolce and Gabbana leather shoes."

Rubber shoes. . "This one (Jordan, a subbrand of Nike), which is the *pinakalaspag* (most worn out). But even though it's *laspag*, I'll never get rid of it. I remember I bought this for 200 bucks. You see, my rubber shoes are all dirty and messy."

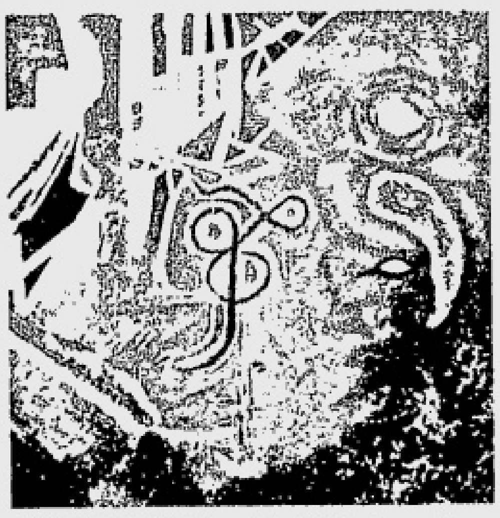
Sleepwear. "Boxer shorts and that's it. I love pillows so I'm covered with pillows when I go to sleep."

Scents. "My favorite is Master Cologne and I also use that thing of Oxygen, Static. I don't keep my colognes here, I keep them all in the car. I spray all over me before I get out of the car."

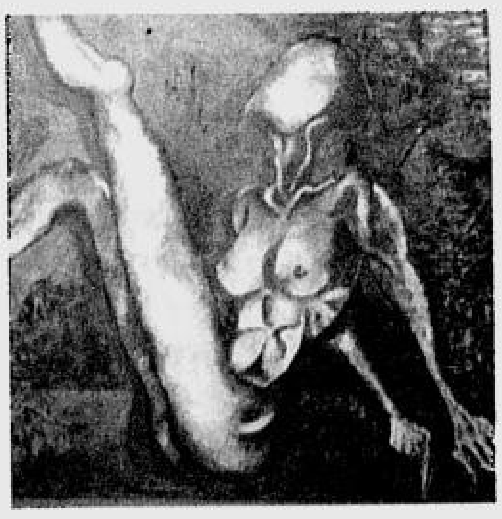
Watches. "This is gonna make me cry. I had my Oris watch and my Rolex watch stolen from here. I think kids took it. Because when I'm here and these kids walk in, 'hey, can we come in, can we play Playstation?' And me, I never lock my door, not even when I go out. I loved that watch, the Formula One Oris. The Rolex, I don't care about the Rolex. I don't like Rolex. It was given to me by my dad.

"I have a sports watch, a titanium Oakley watch.

CDs. "I don't have a favorite CD. It depends on what mood I'm in *eh*. Maybe, the favorite CD I'll have in the car, a compilation of hip hop songs. But if I'm on a date with a girl, I don't put hip hop on. Slow, like R&B. Sometimes I go for garage music. Not a lot of people here listen to garage music, which is similar to techno, but there's a DJ."



ART LESSONS. He painted this after getting painting lessons from a friend, who created the work below.

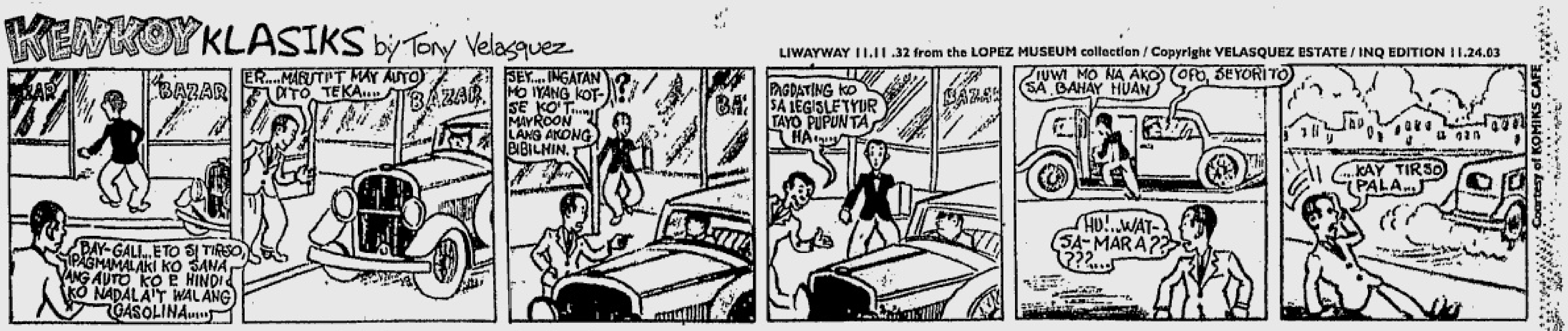


BRANDED. This Oxygen shirt always wins approval.

BOARDED UP. He's into wakeboarding as well as other sports.

SCREEN TEST. First you notice the huge screen dominating the studio. Then you notice the python...

FACE THE WALL. The red sheets were originally meant to be table runners but ended up as background for the masks that also came from his sister's furniture shop.


KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez
BAZAR
BAY-GALI...ETO SI TIRSO, IPAGMAMALAKI KO SANA ANG AUTO KO E HINDI KO NADALA'T WALANG GASOLINA.....
ER....MARUTI'T MAY AUTO DITO TEKA....
BAZAR
SEY....INGATAN MO IYANG KOT-SE KO'T..... MAYROON LANG AKONG BIBILHIN.
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PAGDATING KO SA LEGISLETYUR TAYO PUPUNTA HA.....
IUWI MO NA AKO SA BAHAY HUAN
OPO, SEYORITO
HU!..WAT-SA-MARA?? ???....
...KAY TIRSO PALA...

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Yuletide fatigue

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OUR little campaign against the excessively early "onslaught" and over-commercialization of Christmas has elicited a variety of responses from readers. As we ourselves expected, some people have branded us a neo-Scrooge who doesn't want Christmas lovers to have fun, and to spread good cheer, love and the Yuletide spirit—as early as Sept. 1! Bah, humbug.

Only half-jokingly, a friend even declared that he wouldn't give me a gift this Christmas, to "penalize" me for being such a dry, old stick-in-the-mud. Our friend's family owns a department store, so we understand his ill humor toward us, partly tongue-in-cheek though it may be.

Besides, we won't be missing his Yuletide presents all that much because, for several years now, they've consisted of photos of himself and his less than stunningly gorgeous family. We may be a neo-Scrooge, but he's a skinflint for all Yuletide seasons.

More seriously now, you know of course that we're against playing Christmas carols starting as early as Sept. 1 because it results in "Yuletide fatigue," demeans the Christmas spirit, and is mostly just a ploy to make people buy presents for their loved ones as early as possible.

So, we've gotten some positive feedback, too, especially from folks who also get turned off by all this over-commercialization in the name of spreading Yuletide cheer. This isn't motivated by love and generosity, they agree, but generally by the profit motive, pure and simple.

That's profit, not prophet, and Jesus has been edged out in favor of the much more secular and materialistic orientation of today's version of Christmas.

So, let's individually and collectively decide to postpone "seriously" shopping for Christmas presents until Dec. 1. That way, we won't be following the dubious dictates of merchants with an eye out not for the star of Bethlehem but for the financial bottom line. And we won't be stretching the Christmas spirit beyond its genuine cause for celebration.

"But Christmas should even be celebrated every single day of the year," somebody else pipes up. Oh, please. We're talking genuine love for God and our fellowman here. If we could truly feel that for one month, we'd be lucky!

Having said all that, we must confess that this year, we received our first Christmas gift last Nov. 5—and we didn't return it to the sender. Ooops, sorry.

Destiny, Global merge

DESTINY Cable recently merged with Global Cable for converged broadband services, a synergy of strengths that will provide additional avenues of distribution. This development will provide viewers more choices than ever before.

Destiny will also continue to develop its broadband technology applications through high-speed Internet services, data networks, leased lines and VIOP telephony services—plus other modalities like medical and security, and video and audio on demand services with other applications providers, to promote industry growth.

'Cold Creek Manor'

SHARON Stone hasn't been very visible on the big screen of late, but she makes up for that slack with her intense performance in her latest starrer, Mike Figgis' suspense-thriller, "Cold Creek Manor."

In the film, Stone and **Dennis Quaid** are cast as a married couple thrilled to finally move from the congested city to an old mansion in the outskirts of New York State.

But their dream of a quiet, happy, bucolic life is shattered when a series of terrifying incidents at their country home leads them to wonder who used to live there—and to discover the dark secrets hidden deep inside.

Willowy wins

SEVEN bands competed in the finals of Monster Radio's Band Breakout tilt last Nov. 15, and when the smoke cleared, the grand prize winner was the Willowy band.

Formed in 1998, the band is made up of **Grace Jamon** on vocals, **Anthony Francisco** and **J.R. Tancinco** on guitar, **Ian Hernandez** on bass, and **Fletcher Hernandez** on drums and percussion.

Willowy's sound has been variously tagged as power pop, alternative pop and pop-rock. But the bandmates say that their music goes beyond labels. They simply want to express themselves and pay tribute to the music world's legends and prime movers.

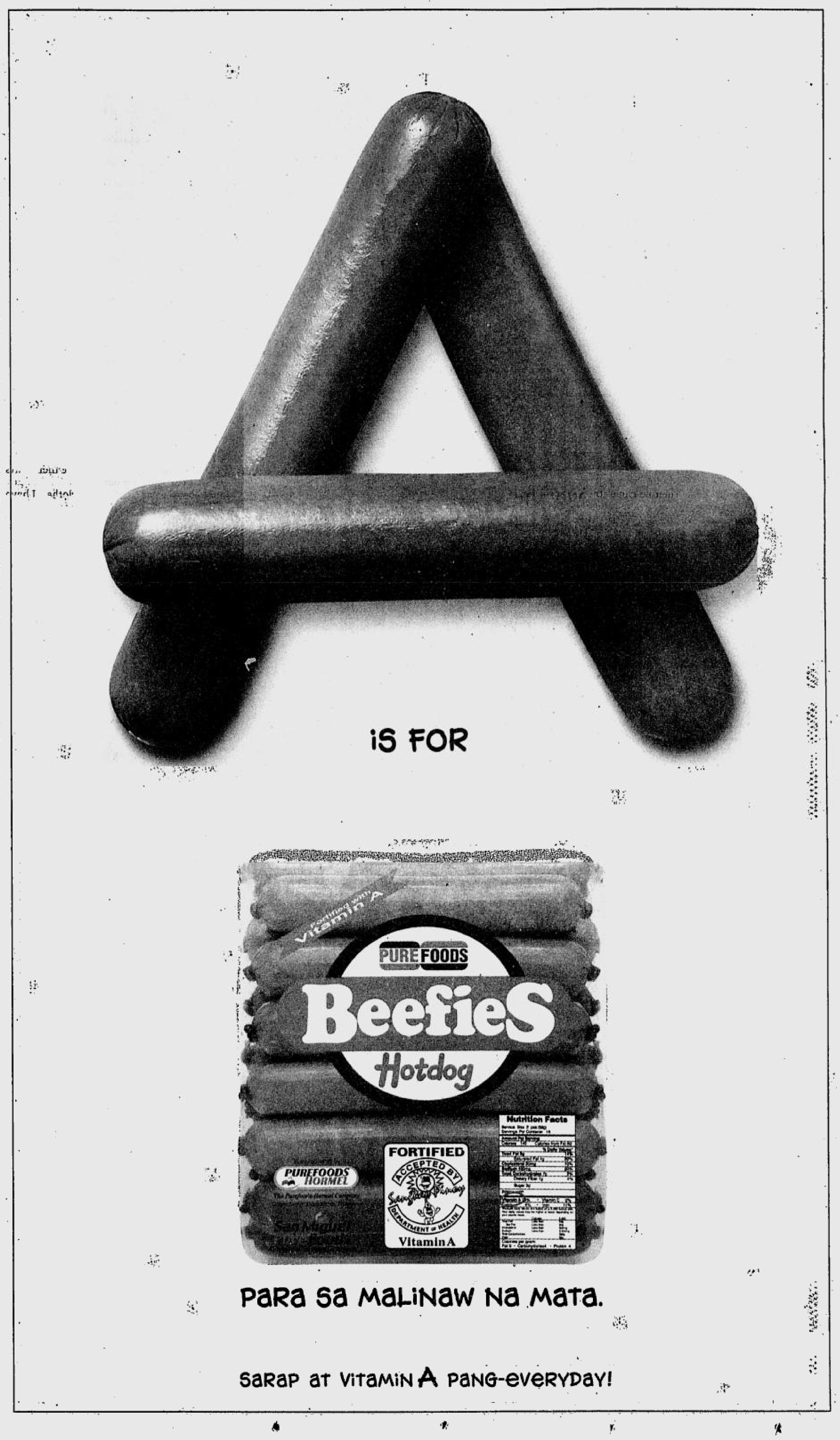
Japanese design at CCP

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines and Japan Foundation have put up the design exhibit "Beyond the Surface—Japanese Style of Making Things" which will run from Nov. 27 to Jan. 8, 2004 at the CCP's Main Gallery.

Curated by Prof. **Ryu Niimi** of the Musashino Art University, the exhibit will feature photography, interior design, textiles and fiber sculpture, all of which convey messages through their surfaces. Call 832-3702.

DID YOU KNOW...

More than an hour before the start of **Mariah Carey's** concert at The Fort Open Field last Sunday night, seen dining at the nearby Good Earth restaurant were couples **David Bunevacz** and **Jessica Rodriguez**, **Ronnie** and **Ida Henares**, and show biz sweethearts **Chynna Ortaleza** and **Railey Valeroso** of GMA 7's youth show, "Click."



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2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 SEX SCANDAL
4 MR. SUAVE
5 WRONG TURN
6 SCARY MOVIE 3
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY CEBU

1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5 LIBERATED
6 MR. SUAVE
7 MR. SUAVE
8 MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY BACOOR

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE
5 SCARY MOVIE 3
6 MR. SUAVE
7 WRONG TURN
8 SEX SCANDAL

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 BELPHEGOR
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MAPUPULANG LABI
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MR. SUAVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

1 MR. SUAVE
2 MR. SUAVE
3 SCARY MOVIE 3
4 MASTER & COMMANDER

SM BICUTAN

1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 MR. SUAVE
3 MR. SUAVE
4 SCARY MOVIE 3

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA

1 MR. SUAVE
2 WRONG TURN
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 LIBERATED
5 SCARY MOVIE 3
6 THE WISHER
7 SCARY MOVIE 3
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 MR. SUAVE
10 SEX SCANDAL

SM SOUTHMALL

1 MR. SUAVE
2 WRONG TURN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 SCARY MOVIE 3
5 MASTER & COMMANDER
6 LIBERATED
7 MR. SUAVE
8 MASTER & COMMANDER
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 SEX SCANDAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 THE WISHER
2 WRONG TURN
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MASTER & COMMANDER
5 MR. SUAVE
6 SEX SCANDAL
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 MR. SUAVE
9 SCARY MOVIE 3
10 LIBERATED
11 THE RUNDOWN
12 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY DAVAO

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 IDENTITY
3 MR. SUAVE
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
5 MR. SUAVE
6 MASTER & COMMANDER

SM CITY LUCENA

1 UNDERWORLD
2 THE RUNDOWN
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6 WRONG TURN
7 SEX SCANDAL
8 MR. SUAVE
9 MR. SUAVE
10 SCARY MOVIE 3
11 MY FIRST ROMANCE
12 LIBERATED

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 SEX SCANDAL
3 MR. SUAVE
4 SCARY MOVIE 3

SM CITY ILOILO

1 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
2 RESERVED
3 MR. SUAVE
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 RESERVED
8 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

SM CITY MANILA

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MASTER & COMMANDER
3 SCARY MOVIE 3
4 SCARY MOVIE 3
5 WRONG TURN
6 MASTER & COMMANDER
7 SEX SCANDAL
8 THE PHONE
9 MR. SUAVE
10 MR. SUAVE
11 THE WISHER
12 LIBERATED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MR. SUAVE
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO

1 MASTER & COMMANDER
2 MR. SUAVE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 SCARY MOVIE 3
11:30 FS/11:55 MF/1:45/3:35/5:25/7:15/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 MASTER & COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8975 • LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday • Regular: P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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Galleria

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THX /All Digital

1 MASTER AND COMMANDER 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35 THX
4 WRONG TURN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
2 SCARY MOVIE 3 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40
5 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 MASTER AND COMMANDER 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 DARK BLUE 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55
9 HEAD OF STATE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
8 SEX SCANDAL 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00,7:00, 9:00
10 THE RUNDOWN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

520-7165
536-7809 to 12

1 SCARY MOVIE 3 - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
2 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER - 10:15, 1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:30
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 WRONG TURN - 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:30, 10:00
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:00

Metro East

Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8260

1 MR. SUAVE
2 MASTER AND COMMANDER
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 SCARY MOVIE 3
5 SEX SCANDAL
6 WRONG TURN
7 MASTER AND COMMANDER
8 DARK BLUE

Novaliches

935-3229 / 31

1 MASTER AND COMMANDER
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 WRONG TURN
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 MR. SUAVE
6 SCARY MOVIE 3
7 DARK BLUE
8 SEX SCANDAL

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THE PHONE	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
MAPUPULANG LABI	2	SEX SCANDAL
MR. SUAVE	3	MR. SUAVE
BELPHEGOR	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MASTER AND COMMANDER	5	SCARY MOVIE 3
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	6	WRONG TURN

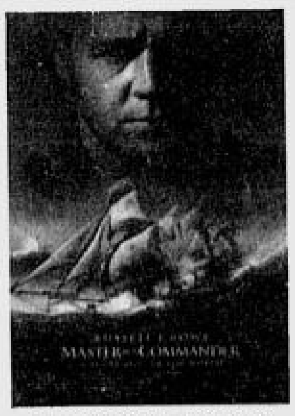
Bacolod (034)441-0450/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MASTER AND COMMANDER	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
MR. SUAVE	2	SUCKERS
UNDERWORLD	3	THE SUSPECT
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	4	MR. SUAVE
FREAKY FRIDAY	5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
THE PHONE	6	AMERICAN PSYCHO 2

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas Old National Highway Mataas na Lupa (043)757-3064/312-5870
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	MASTER AND COMMANDER
THE SPY	2	THE PHONE
BELPHEGOR:	3	BELPHEGOR
MR. SUAVE	4	LIBERATED
MASTER AND COMMANDER	5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Malabon

Concepcion
288-0985/2575

1 SEX SCANDAL
2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 MR. SUAVE
4 MASTER AND COMMANDER



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at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

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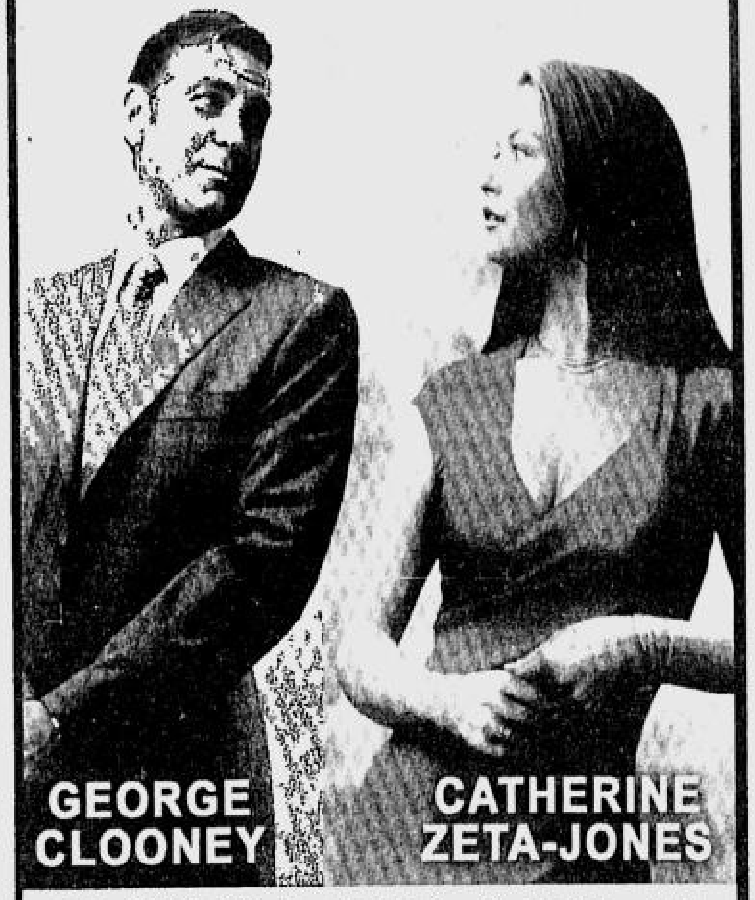
OPENS DECEMBER 3

MAGIC 89.9

In the BATTLE of the SEXES, who will be the FIRST to BLINK and FALL in LOVE?



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2ND WEEK

MAGIC 89.9

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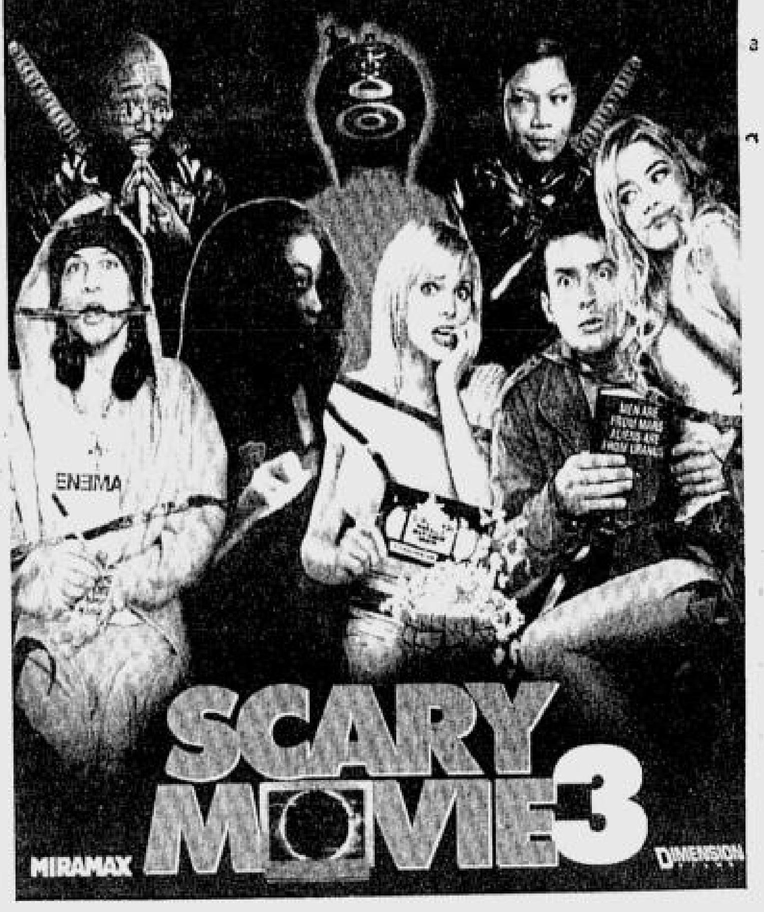
There is a videotape. If you watch it, seven days later... you'll die laughing.



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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

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CINEMA 1 MASTER AND COMMANDER
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PG13

CINEMA 2 SCARY MOVIE 3
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:50
R13

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DEC 5	HITBACK	9:00PM
DEC 6	IRONN MAN & IRONN MAIDEN	5:00PM

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CINEMA

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45	MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10	SCARY MOVIE 3 R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	MR. SUAVE PG13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20	SCARY MOVIE 3 R13 1:00, 3:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Martin and Pops a hit in 7-city concert tour across US

EX-COUPLE continues to wow fans.

MARTIN Nievera and Pops Fernandez, the Philippines' concert royalty, conquered the hearts of their mostly Pinoy audiences in their sold-out shows in seven cities across America.

The Martin-Pops shows featured a video soap opera of their love story. OPM songs of romance, betrayal and reunion made the fans teary-eyed as the shows retraced the former couple's good old times. This was balanced by their witty banter.

The Pinoys came in full force with their families and friends. They waved their cell phones in the air, lighting up the venues.

The Martin and Pops shows were so successful that producer Maximedia had to add extra seats aside to accommodate the more than 12,000 ticket holders who packed the UCLA Pauley Pavilion.

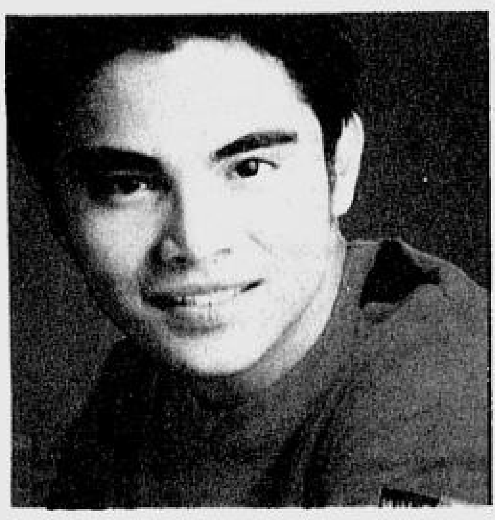
The Los Angeles show last Oct. 4 was the first stop in the seven-city concert tour. They also performed at the Cox Arena in San Diego, the DC Armory in Washington, the Rosemont Theater in Chicago, the Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall in New Jersey, and the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

Marvin with the best

SHOW TIME

IN THE more than a dozen movies that he has done so far, actor Marvin Agustin has worked with the best of them.

Marvin has worked with award-winning directors such as Marilou Diaz-Abaya in "Noon at Ngayon," Chito Roño in "Dekada '70" and Laurice Guillen in "Tanging Yaman." He was also directed by Olivia Lamasan in "Minsan Minahal Kita," Jerry Sineneng in "Esperanza: The Movie," "Labs Kita, Okay Ka Lang?" and "Kung Ayaw Mo, 'Wag Mo," Laurenti Dyogi in "Flames: The Movie" and "Magandang Hatinggabi," Wenn Deramas in "Tanging Ina," Joyce Bernal in "Super B" and "Hey Babe" and Rory Quintos in "Ipaglaban Mo: The Movie."



ROLE MODEL Agustin

For his performance in the last movie, Marvin earned his first acting nominations for best supporting actor.

In his new movie from OctoArts Films, "Malikmata," Marvin works for the first time with another multi-awarded director, Jose Javier Reyes, who also wrote the screenplay. Marvin plays law student Patrick Saavedra, who is trying to solve the murder of his grandmother, portrayed by Barbara Perez.

"Malikmata" is an official entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

Now only on his seventh year in show biz, 24-year-old Marvin is paired for the first time in "Malikmata" with Rica Peralejo, who plays a clairvoyant girl who helps him solve the murder.

Marvin continues to be a fine example of how a young man can succeed through determination, despite poverty.

The young actor, who idolizes Leonardo DiCaprio and Michael Douglas, also dreams of writing, directing and producing his own movies one day. He has directed music videos for ABS-CBN shows, projects and talents. On TV, he is on the sitcom "Whattamen," Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m., and the nightly teleserye, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," 8:30 p.m.

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Strings: The Story of Acoustic

Nov 28 [3PM]
Alabang Town Center
[Town Plaza]
w/ Arnee; Jay-R; NINA; MYMP; King; & Divo

Dec 12 (3PM)
Ayala Center Makati
[Glorietta Activity Center]
w/ Arnee; Paolo Santos; Jimmy Bondoc; NINA; 17:28; Jay-R; & King

The Bands: Plug & Play

Nov 29 (3PM)
Alabang Town Center
[Town Plaza]
w/ Barbie's Cradle; Gloc 9; Moonstar 88; Slapshock; Kamikazee; & Bridges

Dec 13 (3PM)
Ayala Center Makati
[Glorietta Activity Center]
w/ Barbie's Cradle; Bridges; Gloc 9; Truefaith; & South Border

POP Music: Divas Atbp.

Nov 30 (3PM)
Alabang Town Center
[Town Plaza]
w/ Akafellas; Dingdong Avanzado; Jessa Zaragosa; Jed Maddela; Josh Santana; Geneva Cruz; Marielle; Sheng & Lani Misalucha

Dec 14 (3PM)
Ayala Center Makati
[Glorietta Activity Center]
w/ Aiza Seguerra; Dingdong Avanzado; Jessa Zaragosa; Jed Maddela; Josh Santana; Karylle; Sarah Geronimo; & Sheng

Catch the exciting fireworks display on Nov. 29 & 30 at the Alabang Town Center.
Plus! Grab a chance to get collectible CDs and cassettes at special bargain prices--visit Alabang Town Center [Cinema Lobby] from Nov 24 to 30 and EDSA Mall Ayala Center Makati from Dec. 8 to 14, 2003.

Media Friends:
Thanks to:
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Designing Daphne, other TV stars in celebrity bazaar

BY HER own admission, television personality Daphne Oseña is a world-class shopper who loves branded shoes and bags. But these days, Sophia Rose Imelda, her firstborn with husband Patrick Paez of "The Correspondents," has turned hardcore fashionista Daphne into a hands-on, breast-feeding mom who would rather bond with baby than shop.

"I don't go to the beauty parlor as often as before," says Daphne. "But I don't mind. I still shop but mostly I try to buy more quality pieces like a great watch or a leather bag that my daughter can use when she grows up."

But while there are many stores in the country that sell baby clothes, many of their clothes are too fancy and are more for parties and special occasions than daily life. So, Daphne started designing clothes for Sophia. She created, for instance, a kimono-inspired garment of printed cotton with no buttons or snaps, only two ribbons that can be tied and untied with little fuss.

Soon, Daphne's sewer was turning out variations on the original design—sleeveless, long-sleeved, florals, small checks and even combinations. Most of the adorable clothes are in pink and green, Daphne's favorite colors.

Daphne will be selling her cute Japanese-inspired baby outfits and Japanese tea sets at Menchie Mabanta's bazaar at Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center on Nov. 27 to 28 and Dec. 17 to 19.

LIKE MOM, like Sophie Rose Imelda, who models Daphne's creation

Other celebrity vendors for the event are Daphne's friend, actress/TV host Angel Aquino and broadcaster Pia Hontiveros, who will be selling unique candles.

The bazaar will also have a special food section with delicacies such as Joyce Aragon's *dulong* and rum cakes, moist chocolate cakes and chocolate crinkles from HungryPac, *siopitos*, pastries and others.

Admission to the bazaar is free and major credit cards are accepted. Parking will also be available.

For more information, call 437-1009, 438-9974, 647-9059 or 0917-5264812.

Join! Search for
Miss Silka 2004

MECHANICS:
1. All natural born females residing in the Philippines between 18 - 24 years old meeting the criteria below are invited to join the search for Miss Silka 2004:
- fair complexion
- at least 5'3" in height
- with pleasing personality of good moral character
- College level or College graduate

*PROMO STARTS DECEMBER 1, 2003 UNTIL MARCH 31, 2004

2. Entries have to be mailed with the following requirements enclosed:
- one (1) label or empty box carton of any Silka product
- Bio-data including name, address, contact number and signature
- Vital statistics including height and weight
- 3R size close-up colored picture
- 4R size full-body colored picture

3. Entries have to be mailed to the following address:
Search for Miss Silka 2004
c/o PBS ADVERTISING
Dolmar Building, 1122 Perez Street,
cor. U.N. Avenue, Paco Manila

4. Selection Process:
- There will be four (4) qualification rounds held before the day of Miss Silka 2004 Pageant.
- For each qualification round, twenty (20) candidates will be interviewed. Three (3) will be chosen as finalists for each round – for a total of twelve (12) finalists to compete for the title of Miss Silka 2004 on the day of the pageant.
- Selected candidates and finalists will be notified through registered mail. For those residing in remote areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, 2-way transportation fare and 1 night hotel accommodation will be provided for the participant and 1 companion.

Schedule of Events:

Event	Event Date	Last Day for Entry Submission
Qualification round # 1	January 10, 2004	December 31, 2003
Qualification round # 2	February 7, 2004	January 31, 2004
Qualification round # 3	March 6, 2004	February 29, 2004
Qualification round # 4	April 3, 2004	March 31, 2004
Miss Silka Pageant 2004	April 23, 2004	

*Only one entry per participant will be acknowledged throughout the duration of the search.
*All Silka employees, distributors, retailers and advertising agencies, including their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity are excluded.

5. Awards:
Miss Silka 2004 winner
- Php 50,000
- one (1) year exclusive contract with Cosmetique Asia, promoting all Silka products through mall tours, TV guesting and other PR activities
- an exclusive date with TV Star and Silka Endorser John Lloyd Cruz

1st runner up
- Php 35,000
- Silka gift pack

2nd runner up
- Php 25,000
- Silka gift pack

12 finalists chosen during the elimination rounds
- Php 5,000
- Silka gift pack

Candidates interviewed
- Silka gift pack

PER DOH-BFAD Permit #1041 s. 2003

Life-changing encounters with God

GOD is like a father to her, according to Rio Diaz-Cojuangco, who recently amazed her doctors again by miraculously surviving her deadliest battle with cancer yet.

"He's my Abba, my daddy," Rio says on "The 700 Club Asia," using the intimate Hebrew endearment meaning "papa."

Former actress and financial analyst Emma Yuhico knows God well as "Jehovah Jireh," God her Provider. "Without Him, I would never have survived the difficulties of life as a solo parent," she says. "He has provided all that my son and I have ever needed. I have found my sufficiency in Him alone."

Emma and many others will share stories of their life-changing encounters with God on "Is There a God?," a three-day series of live specials showing from today to Wednesday, Nov. 26, 12:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN. Hosts will be Peter Kairuz, Dulce, Myles Osolio and Teri Sambajon. Guests include actresses Gloria Sevilla and Celia Rodriguez, newscaster Joyce Ann Burton, and human resource developer Anthony Pangilinan.

CBS-TV postpones ...

From page C8

being released."

But prosecutors strongly denied any link between the timing of the warrant and the release of Jackson's new album.

Santa Barbara district attorney Tom Sneddon said, "It really has nothing to do with his album or whatever else he's doing in his life. We don't track him."

Sneddon said he and Santa Barbara Sheriff Jim Anderson did not even know about the new release.

Sneddon insisted the arrest had been originally planned for several weeks earlier but was postponed because police had to cope with about 500,000 visitors arriving in Santa Barbara for Halloween. *AFP*

10 songs, 1 costume in short Mandy show

From page C1

Mandy described her Manila concert as a "low-key rock 'n' roll show." It started at 9:40 p.m. and lasted for less than an hour.

People had been lining up at the Araneta Coliseum's green gate as early as 3:30 p.m. When the gates were opened at 6:30 p.m., many people caught the Filipino guest performers, Jay-R and Arnee, still rehearsing their numbers.

A fashion show featuring Penshoppe's newest line opened the show at 8 p.m.

"The models seem not to have memorized the blocking yet," a Mandy fan observed. "They kept on bumping into each other on stage."

Friday night at the Fort, Mandy shared the stage and shook hands with the guest of honor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who gave a very short speech.

Saturday, Mandy signed autographs at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong. Yesterday, she was on GMA 7's noon show, "SOP," as well as ABS-CBN's "Sharon" later in the afternoon.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX SCANDAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LIBERATED
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-6401 TO 10)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-3	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DARK BLUE
CINEMA-6	MAPANUKSO
CINEMA-7	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE 3
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-15	MR. SUAVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-1	MR. SUAVE
CINEMA-2	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-4	IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Red Carpet Premiere

Invitational Snack Studio Inc. & WLS FM Premiere

on Nov. 24, 2003
7:30 pm

SM Megamall Cinema 1

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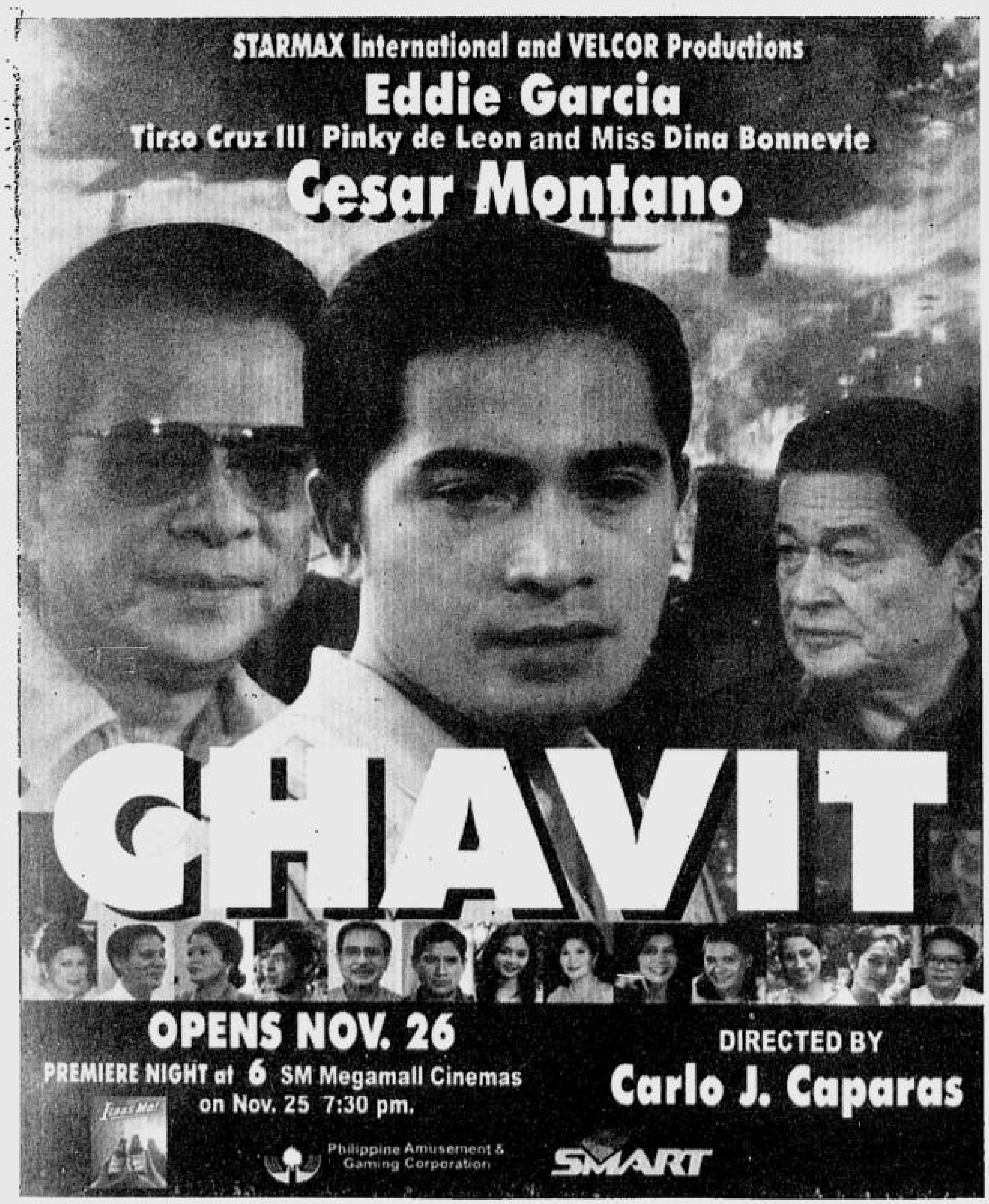
COLD CREEK MANOR



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MASTER AND COMMANDER	1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1 ArtFilm MONSOON WEDDING 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 SCARY MOVIE 3 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	THX 1 SCARY MOVIE 3
2 SCARY MOVIE 3	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER	2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MASTER AND COMMANDER 2:45, 5:40, 8:35, 11:30	2 MR. SUAVE
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MASTER & COMMANDER 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 28, 29 8PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	3 MASTER AND COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE	4 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MR. SUAVE 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 MASTER AND COMMANDER
	5 WRONG TURN		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
	6 SCARY MOVIE 3			
	7 DRUMLINE			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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1 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE-3
2 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	MASTER & COMMANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	MR. SUAVE
9	MR. SUAVE
10	WISHER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

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1	MR. SUAVE
2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	SEX SCANDAL

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www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2	MR. SUAVE
3	SEX SCANDAL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	LIBERATED

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	LIBERATED
2	SEX SCANDAL
3	SCARY MOVIE-3
4	MR. SUAVE
5	MATRIX REVOLUTION
6	MASTER & COMMANDER

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	MR. SUAVE
2	MAPANUKSO

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2603

MASTER & COMMANDER

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2	MY BOSS DAUGTHER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	MR. SUAVE
2	
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	SEX SCANDAL
6	MR. SUAVE
7 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 (SDDS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
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7 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	LIBERATED
9	MAPANUKSO

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2 (SDDS)	WRONG TURN
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
4 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
5	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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2	MASTER & COMMANDER
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3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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2	SEX SCANDAL

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2	SEX SCANDAL
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
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2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE

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1	UP TOWN GIRL
2 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MR. SUAVE
2 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	UP TOWN GIRL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	UNDERWORLD
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	MR. SUAVE
2	LIBERATED
3 (DOLBY)	THE PHONE
4 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION

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(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
2 (DTS)	LIBERATED
3	MR. SUAVE

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MR. SUAVE
2	LAGING SARIWA
3 (DTS)	MAPANUKSO
4	INDECENT BEHAVIOR

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2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	MAPANUKSO
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	MR. SUAVE
3	MATRIX REVOLUTION

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1	IDENTITY
2	MATRIX REVOLUTION
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4 (DOLBY)	MR. SUAVE

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(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LIBERATED
2	MR. SUAVE
3	

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LIBERATED
2	THE SUSPECT
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	BELPHEGOR

Jade Cinema
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2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DTS ES)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	LIBERATED

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

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3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4 (DTS)	MASTER & COMMANDER

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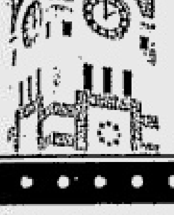

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MR. SUAVE
Ali 2	SEX SCANDAL
Ali 3	MASTER AND COMMANDER
Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 5	SCARY MOVIE 3
Ali 6	LIBERATED
Ali 7	WRONG TURN

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NOV 26	BAKBAKAN 8-STAG DERBY
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Cheche not retiring, just slowing down

From page C1

yond a year," said Lazaro. "We were not sure of the audience and if advertisers would put in their money. And would any station give us air time? In 1987, news and talk shows were the genre. We were not a perfect fit in the programming at that time. My feeling was that every year after the first year was a bonus. It was special, a new lease on life, which we didn't expect."

Breaking barriers

One of the barriers she had to overcome was the media's obsession with youth and beauty. During the Martial Law era, many broadcasters and journalists went to the academe or took up corporate jobs instead of working for a state-controlled industry. Lazaro herself had obtained her master's degree in radio and television at the University of Michigan and then she got married. She started her family in the US, then came back to teach at the University of the Philippines.

After the Edsa Revolution and the Lopezes had regained ABS-CBN, Lazaro's former colleagues invited her to go back to news programming. She was in her early 40s then.

"At that time, TV was looking for fresh, young faces," she recalled. "I wasn't a spring chicken. The beauty and age barriers were there. The parameters at that time was that you had to be pretty, young, and a good speaker to be on TV.

"We were fighting an uphill battle. We had a show that wasn't of a popular genre. We had a host—me—who wasn't a beauty and was not young. We were an anachronism. It added to the apprehension that maybe TV wasn't ready for this kind of program because it was a serious thing.

"We tried to fit. We ended up creating a niche, creating our own place which we could move around."

THE TEAM. Lazaro thumbs it up with the reporters and staff members of "The Probe Team"

Lazaro earned credibility through sheer diligence. "We had to make sure the stories were complete; well documented and well researched," she said. "Although the story was well told, we still had to make it interesting. As the years went by, we learned how to make it click. We tried to find new ways of telling the story.

"Through 16 years, we never really felt that we were coasting along. The competition became tougher. There were new genres coming up."

In a mellow way

At 58, Lazaro looks youthful and still commands the viewer's attention with her lucid reportage.

"Max Factor helped a lot," she said in jest. "I do show signs of age. Foremost is that I can't run as fast as my team does. There have been so many members of the team that are much more savvy. The sum of its parts is all of the individual talents.

Value system

"You mellow at 50," she added. "Hopefully, you don't lose your value system. In my earlier days in Probe, I was very determined. Those qualities still remain, in a mellow kind of way. It's not a do-or-die anymore. Back then, I would die for a story. Now I am not sure. As you mellow you begin to see things with a wider perspective. You begin to understand the push and pull of things. The challenge is not to give in and to retain whatever idealism you had in the beginning, so that the mission pushes itself forward and doesn't get stuck."

DID YOU KNOW...

ABC 5, now owned by business magnate Tonyboy Cojuangco, is said to be eyeing the vacant Edsa lot in front of GMA 7 in Quezon City to be the site of its new studios. The lot is now a dump, but ABC 5 is said to be bidding for its lease. The old studios of ABC 5 are in Novaliches in the same city. Under its new owner, ABC made its presence felt in the Ad Congress in Baguio over the weekend with a spectacular show a la Cirque du Soleil at the Baguio Convention Center.

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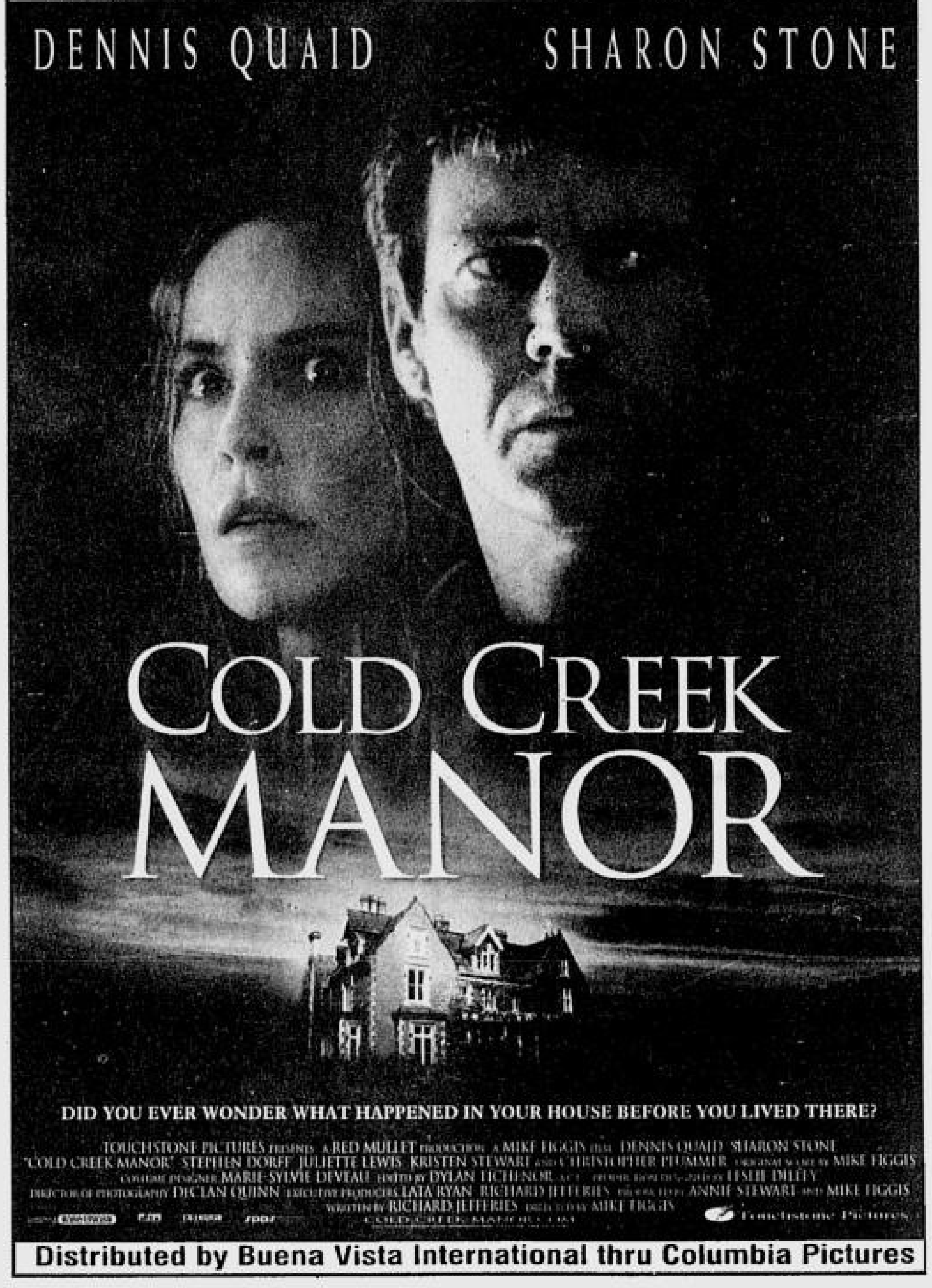
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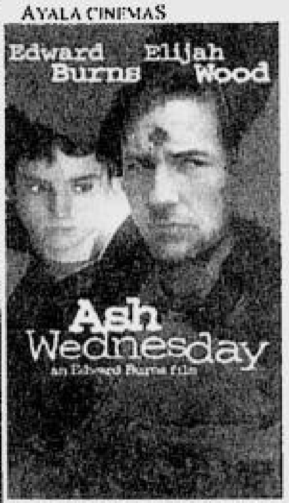

Elijah Wood Edward Burns
Rosario Dawson Oliver Platt

Ash Wednesday

Hells Kitchen, Ash Wednesday, 1980. Sean Sullivan (Elijah Wood) is killed in a vendetta. Three years later, Seans brother Francis (Edward Burns) receives word that Sean may be alive. But the truth isnt always what it seems in this neighborhood, where violence and betrayal are the local currency.

"Suspenseful and ultimately unpredictable, with a sterling ensemble cast."
— Kevin Thomas, L.A. Times

NOKIA INQUIRER SKYFILMS XV

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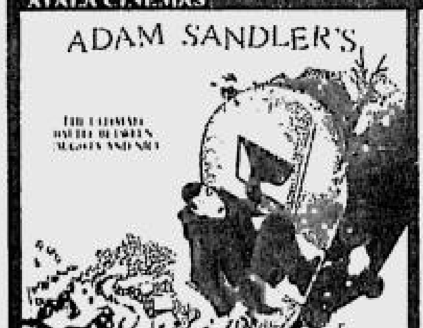

Adam Sandler invites you to share some holiday cheer in the new, no-holds-barred animated musical comedy

Eight CRAZY Nights
IT'S NAUGHTY. IT'S NICE. IT'S ANIMATED.
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When extremely disgruntled small-town guy Davey Stone (voiced by Sandler) faces another holiday season in his New England hometown, he does what he always has - he screws up big and lands in jail. Davey's old basketball referee, Whitey, bails him out with the bright idea of putting Davey to work doing community service. But Davey turns his sentence into a daily disaster for Whitey and the whole town! After a few surprises - including the mysterious reason for Davey's bad attitude and the reappearance of a childhood sweetheart - Davey might find a reason or two to change his ways.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
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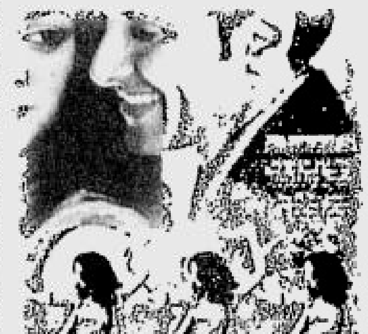

Monsoon Wedding
"★★★★ !"
- NEW YORK POST - SAN FRANSISCO CHRONICLE - DETROIT NEWS

"TWO THUMBS WAY UP"
- ROGER EBERT & RICHARD ROEPER, EBERT & ROEPER

You are invited to join the festivities as one colorful & eclectic family gathers from all over the world for a traditional wedding - a non-stop 4 day celebration as unpredictable as the monsoon season itself. Anything goes when love, lust, hope & happiness take them by storm & bring them ever closer. With this family, when it rains, it pours.

From award winning director Mira Nair (Salaam, Bombay, Mississippi Masala, The Perez Family, & Kama Sutra: A Tale Love), Monsoon Wedding is a fun, heartwarming tribute to family that Carey Rickey of the Philadelphia Inquirer calls "a banquet of heart."

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
NOKIA INQUIRER XV

CBS-TV shelves Jacko special

NEW YORK—The entertainment industry quickly distanced itself from Michael Jackson last week after an arrest warrant was issued against the pop superstar on child molestation charges.

CBS TV immediately announced it would postpone a Michael Jackson special that was to have aired next week. None of Jackson's traditional allies, including actress Elizabeth Taylor, would comment on the charges.

His entourage suggested the charges were deliberately timed to coincide with the release of his new album, "Number Ones."

CBS was to have broadcast a special show on Jackson's career next Wednesday. But it said in a statement, "Given the gravity of the charges against Mr. Jackson, we believe it would be inappropriate at this time to broadcast an entertainment special."

Jackson, who was in Las Vegas recording a new video for "Number Ones," has been charged with multiple counts of child molestation in Santa Barbara.

CBS said it was "very mindful that Mr. Jackson is innocent until proven guilty" and it will "consider broadcasting the special after the due process of the legal system runs its course."

The "Michael Jackson Number Ones" show has been recorded and features top names including Jennifer Lopez and Quincy Jones. Jackson was to perform his new single, "One More Chance."

His album was released on Tuesday as dozens of investigators raided his Neverland Ranch in California searching for evidence related to the latest allegations.

Jackson has one of the most expensive recording contracts in history but his career has waned in recent years following earlier allegations of child abuse.

His last album, "Invincible," released in 2001, sold about two million copies. Normally, this would be considered a success but he spends huge sums making his records and has to generate greater profits.

"One More Chance," the only new music on the album, which is devoted to Jackson's greatest hits, is already struggling to get airplay in the United States.

Last Wednesday, Jackson's spokesperson, Stuart Backerman, quoted him as saying: "These characters always seem to surface with a dreadful allegation just as another project, an album, a video, is

CBS/ C6

JACKSON. His allies keep their distance

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4620 Series of 2003.

The Shopping Recipe of Melissa Sison

Melissa Sison, owner and chef of MyLK in Greenbelt 3, leads an extremely busy life. On her feet most of the day, Melissa is always out to learn something new about cooking and running her restaurant. She always makes it a point to outdo herself every time, demanding only the best. Melissa knows that she needs to take care of herself in order to be successful in her endeavors. So, a little pampering and shopping wouldn't hurt.

For Melissa, shopping is a recipe she follows by heart. She has a list of procedures and ingredients that are out to add spice to her routine and flavor her lifestyle. The first thing that comes to her mind is a trip to the spa. An hour-long, full-body massage and a foot spa work wonders for her mindset that day. Next, a sidetrip to her favorite salon leads to an irresistible hot oil treatment for her crowning glory. She also gives in to the pleasure of a manicure and pedicure to complete her mantra of "looking good, feeling good". She feels it is important for women her age and who have a similar lifestyle to know a thing or two about stress management. And the tension meter is tempered when one takes time to pamper oneself.

Once she is relaxed, Melissa is more than ready to shop! First item on her list is makeup. She loves cosmetics that produce a classic, clean look. When armed with beauty products that enhance her image, her next stop is to go check out the racks for clothes that become her. She enjoys ensembles that are trendy with a personal twist, stylish clothes that evoke a certain element of class. Needless to say, the right kind of accessories is also purchased to complete her look. She takes fancy in unique jewelry pieces that add charm to her get-up. One of the must-do in her mall agenda, Melissa never fails to check out her fave Kate Spade store for the hottest finds.

What starts out as a routine of relaxation and a time-out for vanity evolves to an enlightened day of beauty and shopping for Melissa. With the RED MasterCard from HSBC, all these shopping treats are well within her reach because of RED Instalment, its 0% Instalment Plan available in leading women's stores, including all Stores Specialists, Inc. outlets.

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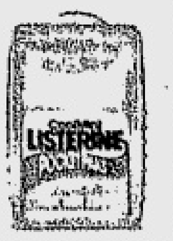
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The tireless art of James Onglepho

The premier exponent of the Chinese artistic idiom in the country explores seascapes

JAMES Onglepho

JAMES Onglepho mounts his 23rd one-man exhibit on Nov. 26, at the Asia Art Gallery (4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall).

The show, featuring his latest oil-on-canvas lotus paintings and colored pencil-and-ink seascape drawings on board, will run until Dec. 8.

In the show, Onglepho shows that colored pencils could be a legitimate drawing medium, their aesthetic qualities made to last with the help of fixatives.

About the seascapes, Onglepho said the mountains, the sea, the trees, the *bahay kubo*, the boats and the birds were composed in a rhythmic manner, like music playing or a poem being read.

He added he sourced his images from memory, primarily from his young days in Zamboanga City in the 1950s.

Also a writer in Chinese, Onglepho has written poems, novels, essays and feature articles. He has written about the history of Chinese landscape painting, and discussed horses in Chinese painting. Chinese-language magazines in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China have regularly featured his art critiques.

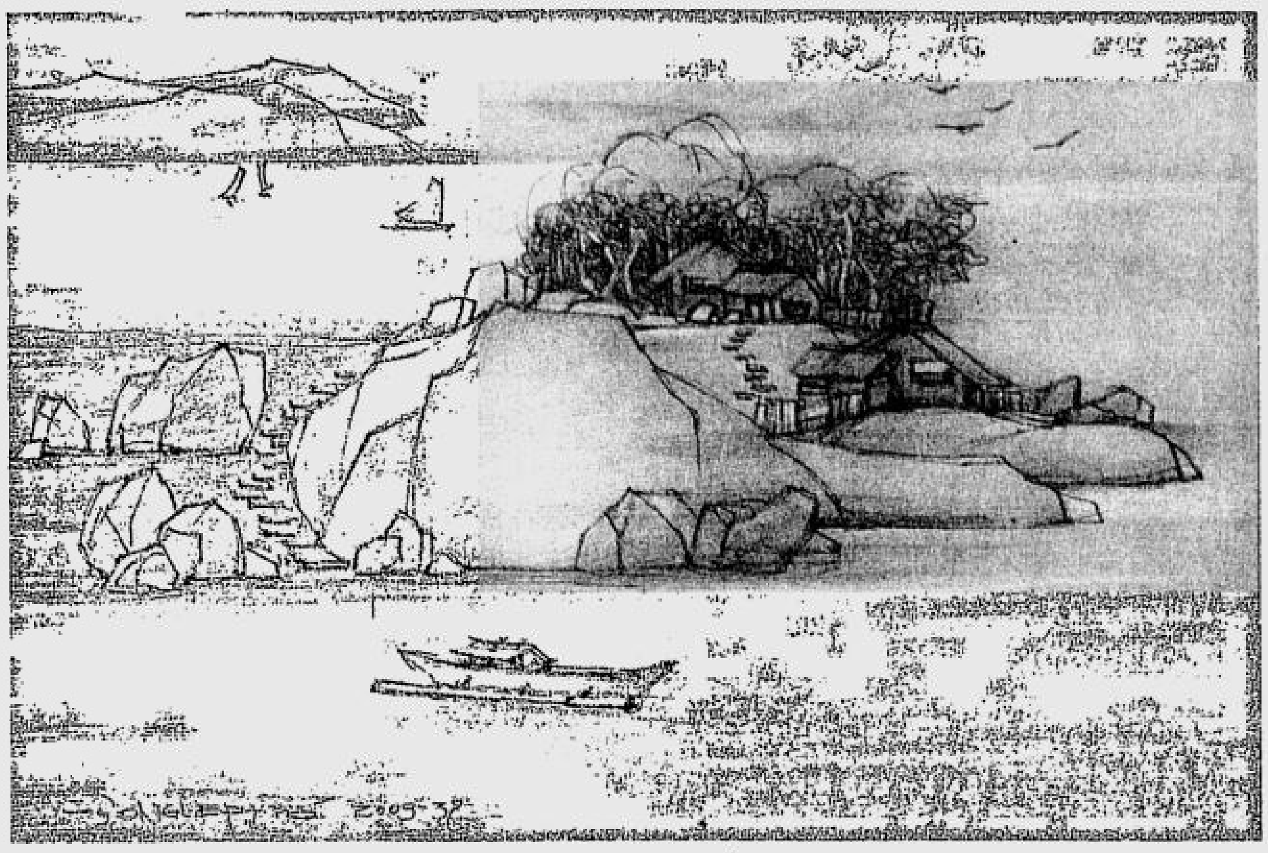
Onglepho has written "A Life in Art," which records his struggles and successes as an artist. The autobiography is being serialized in the local Chinese newspaper, United Daily News.

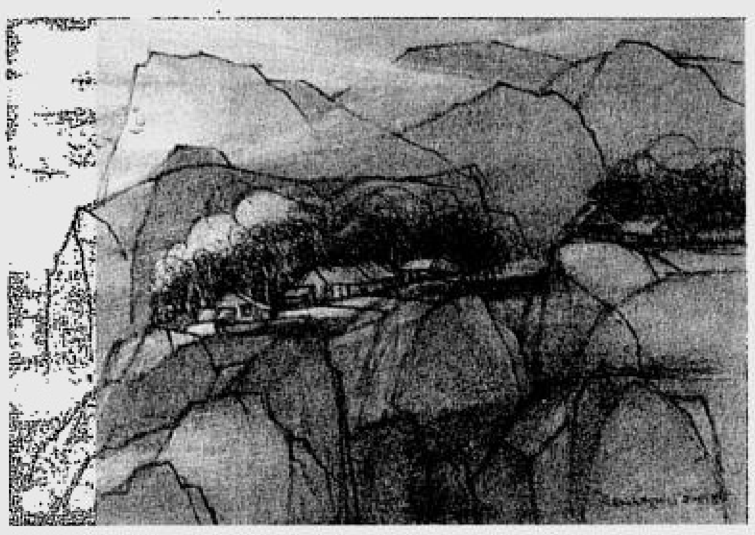
While the series, which started on Dec. 4, 2002, and comes out every Tuesday in the newspaper's literature section, will run until 2004, non-Chinese-speaking art lovers can look forward to the English version soon.

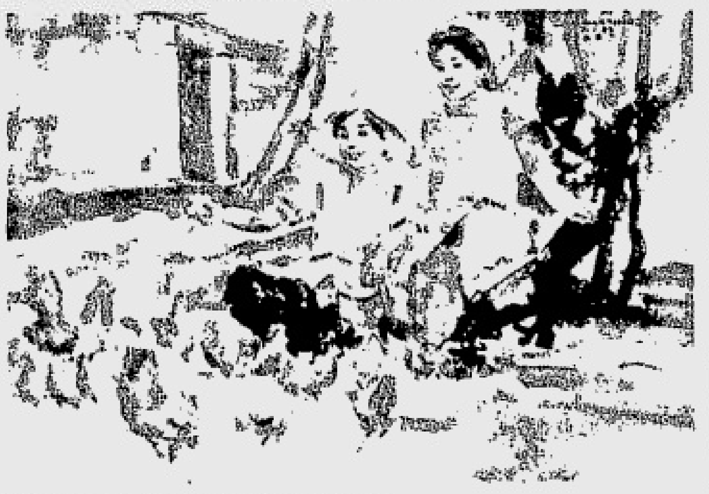
The autobiography tackles Onglepho's beginnings, his migration to the Philippines as a young child during the Japanese Occupation, and his early life in Zamboanga City.

In 1954, Onglepho studied at the School of Fine Arts of University of Santo Tomas. While there, he studied landscape and still-life

THE TIRELESS/ D2


"RISING Sun" series


"RISING Sun" series


"PECKING Order," by Jun Martinez

Artist's pet project

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

Jun Martinez portrays the innocence of children with their pets

IT is a rare opportunity for an artist to focus his sights and brush on the one subject that both adults and children will readily love viewing in an art gallery. And in a seemingly imperfect world that has witnessed the horrors of unspeakable violence and widespread cruelty inflicted on humanity, the artist's message becomes all the more telling—and timely.

The artist is Jun Martinez, a true-blue Negrense, and the show "Creatures Great and Small," his 17th solo exhibit (Metro Gallery, 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan, beside Café Ysabel). It celebrates joyous innocence as seen through the wistful eyes of Filipino children in the company of their pets.

Freed of adult company, these children are caught in fleeting moments of tending to the animals, feeding them, patting and caressing them or simply enjoying their undivided attention.

Martinez has done this subject in watercolor in such regular fashion, having acquired a remarkable degree of mastery in the medium over the years.

But what is even more amazing, despite his stark familiarity with the subject, he simply has not grown tired or jaded in reconfiguring the subject over and over. The works brim with ease and spontaneity, just like his subjects that need little cajoling—or petting—to pose for the artist.

Cuddly and otherwise

Not all the subjects are cuddly, though. There are also four-legged creatures that prefer to wade in the river, as the horde of carabaos does in "Cooling Off," an impressionistic painting with three boys watching over the flock shown half-submerged in a pool.

And there are the pigs and chickens that the tykes are shown feeding, pleasure clearly etched in the children's faces.

These works are all suffused with bright, warm palettes that can only come from an artist who knows his medium inside-out. Drawing from his mastery of free-flowing brushwork, the rhythmic interplay of light and color amid bucolic surroundings, and a well-delineated gallery of characters, the artist has painted his scenes with a high degree of verisimilitude.

Even the picture-pretty canines and felines just seem to pop out of the canvas, brimming with cheerful countenance, complete with tails wagging and eyes intent on sending across messages of cheers and friendship.

In every canvas, there is ample proof of the artist's childlike fascination with the simple joys of childhood. The eye may needlessly shift from one group of kids to the next, but the image of innocence remains intact and fresh.

It is a feel-good show from an artist who has devoted his art to the subject he cares deeply about.

ARTIST'S/ D2

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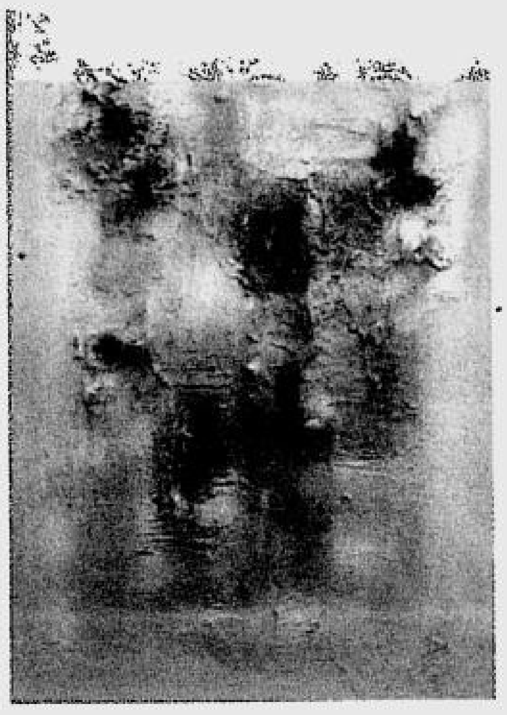
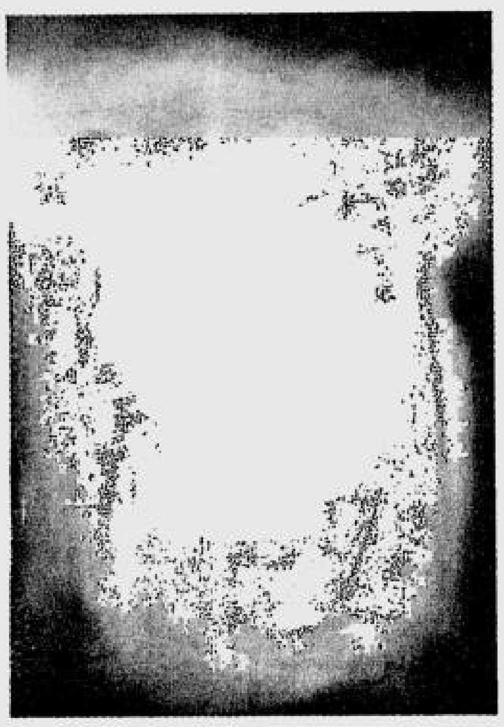
Exploring the nuances of color and texture



"IMAGINARY Landscape" 23



"IMMERSION in Blue"

By Constantino C. Tejero

RAUL Piedra has been doing textured painting since the early 1980s, when he was still into semi-abstraction of rock formations and horizons mixed with the ancient Malayan alphabet.

Now in his 31st solo show "Vestiges" in The Crucible Gallery, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, one can see how through the years he has mastered his technique.

The 10 pieces in acrylic on canvas are all abstraction, with some retaining certain figurative components, as in the abstracted works of the French Impressionists, or Turner's impression of a steamboat in snowstorm.

For texture, Piedra uses decortex, a pasty mixture of silica, quartz, sand, to which he adds marble paste to temper its coarseness.

His technique consists of first applying the mess on the canvas, then covering it with a wash of acrylic, layer upon layer, until he achieves the thickness of pigment he wants. In this exhibit, the dominant hue is ochre.

In "Convergence" 39-41, the ochre merges with gray or slate-blue.

In "Cityscape" 1-2, the ochre gradates into yellow, orange or reddish brown, then fades into gray toward one edge of the canvas. Here, the artist has scraped the pasty pigment with a toothed trowel, producing a gridiron effect.

In "Imaginary Landscape" 23-24, the texture is thicker, as though mud was splattered in the middle of the canvas. Here, the artwork verges on bas-relief.

Old School definition

In "Immersion in Blue," the ochre is surrounded by slate-blue. In "Immersion in Red," it gradates to reddish brown. In each piece, the artist has made a circular incision on the pigment, looking like the disc of the sun emerging from a blaze of light or a haze of penumbra.

In "Abyss," the wash of ochre surrounds a black hole with a gash of red, like a wound—a terrifying image of the beyond. This is the only piece that uses versatex, which consists of Styrofoam granules and sand, finer in texture than decortex.

Piedra has so controlled his texture, particularly the thickness, that his painting doesn't threaten to become sculpture. His is finer than those produced, for example, by Roberto Robles, Cid Reyes, Tony Twiggs.

"I'm Old School when it comes to the proper definition of what is sculpture and what is painting," he admits. "I'm very fond of mixed media, but here the painting element should be foremost. These days such artwork has become like craft, more like relief sculpture. Unlike in relief painting where paint is dominant."

In fact, he also does sculpture, in stone and metal, creating pieces as diverse as tabletops and candleholders (sculptural, of course), most of which are commissioned works.

Minimalist aesthetics

A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from Philippine Women's University, he started with representational pieces in watercolor and acrylic, doing botanicals, landscape (trees), floral still life (orchids). Since he shifted to abstraction in the early '80s, however, he hasn't done a figurative piece.

"Now that I've established my technique in the abstract, the figurative has no more challenge for me," he says. "It's the same images you copy from books, photographs, nature. It's limited. Unlike with abstraction where you can do anything."

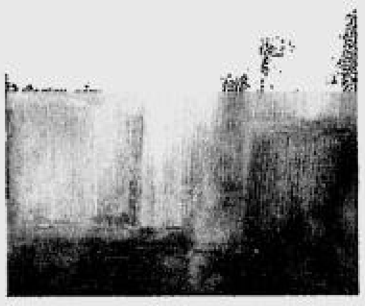
Artists he likes include American Abstract Expressionist Franz Kline, Cy Twombly, Rothko, De Kooning, Botong Francisco.

"I like the minimalist side of artists," he says.

That minimalism, needless to say, is apparent in this exhibit. Its title, by the way, refers to memories and remnants of unfinished works and unexplored techniques.

"I'm just exploring subtle colors, earth tones," he says. "Ochre is new to me. I studied it only last year. Before, I indulged in red and blue. Two years ago, I started shifting to ochre. I'm just shifting to new dimensions of color. I'm just exploring the different kinds of using texture."

"ABYSS"



"CITYSCAPE" 2

'Gestalt' at Hiraya, Benitez at Borders

VISUAL ARTS

HIRAYA Gallery showcases "Gestalt" on Nov. 29-Dec. 13 at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. The exhibit features the works of Christina Quisumbing Ramilo and Popo San Pascual. Ramilo took her Master of Arts in Studio Art and Art Education at New York University. San Pascual was a recipient of the CCP Thirteen Artists Award in 1988.

LE SOUFFLÉ Bistro presents Allan Cosio's "Sensations of Nature" on Dec. 1-31 at 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. The artist presents large-scale paintings.

PHILIPPINE-CHINESE Charitable Association and Society of Philippine Health History mount "A Health History of the Filipino People" on Nov. 29 at 6/L, Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, 286 Blumentritt St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. The photo exhibit will show the evolution of health care from the Spanish era, American era to the present.

ALLIANCE Française de Manille presents "Over the Volcano II" today until Dec. 12 at Alliance Total Gallery in Makati. This multi-media art exhibit features the works of Cebika, Center for Bikol Arts Foundation, Inc.

CRATERI Caffe Lounge on Tomas Morato, QC, features the works of Jes Evangelista until Dec. 3. The artist's pieces are based on Scripture verses and songs.

BORDERS showcases Jana Benitez's latest works on Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati. The artist's drawings and paintings complement Borders' furniture pieces.

GENLUNA Gallery presents Jimmy Vista's "Mindanao Reflections" until Nov. 29 at 12 General Luna St., Davao City. The artist features 15 watercolor works on Mindanao's rustic scenes.

CITIBANK Makati branch features the works of Alan SyCip until Nov. 28 at its lobby. SyCip is an improvisational painter exploring nature and technology in combination.

RENAISSANCE Gallery showcases Addie SyCip Cukingnan's floral works on wooden plates on Dec. 3-8 at the 2/L, The Podium, Mandaluyong. The show's proceeds will go to the Unicef.

SYANO Artlink mounts Nelson Ferraris' "Tick Tock, Text Tox, Text Back, De Tox" until Dec. 12 at 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque.

MANILA Artden Gallery presents the works in oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic and pencil of Robert Ko, Arlyn Tan Erestain, Lupicinio Ng, Jun Tayao and Rey Erestain. The exhibit opens on Nov. 26 and runs until Dec. 17 at 12 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

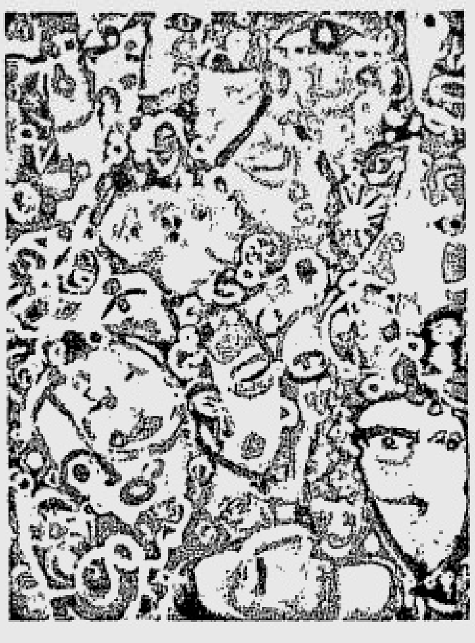
THE BIG & Small Art Co. features Ricardo Gerri Dueñas' "Biblikal" until Dec. 1 at 4/L, SM Megamall, Bldg. A, Mandaluyong. The artist portrays eroticism, power, failure, hope, mysticism, sin and death.

FINALE Art Gallery showcases "Raga-Ak: Black Artists in Asia" on Dec. 2-15 at the Art Center of Megamall. The exhibit will feature the works of Nunelucio Alvarado, Dennis Ascalon and Charlie Co. Their works are a biting commentary on the microcosmic realities in Negros.

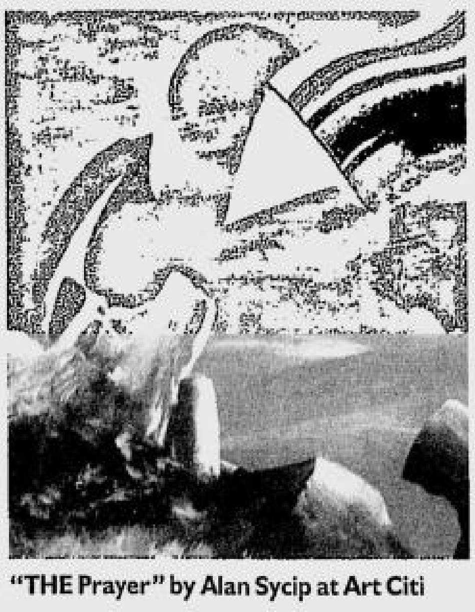
SYANO Artlink mounts Anthony Fermin's "Fiesta" until Dec. 15 at 150 Katipunan Rd., St. Ignatius, QC. "Fiesta" is a collection of 30 watercolor and acrylic paintings, depicting festivities in various pueblos in the Philippines.

CRUCIBLE Gallery presents the works of Rona Buenaseda-Chua on Nov. 25-Dec. 7 at 4/L, SM Megamall, Bldg. A, Mandaluyong. Fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables adorn her canvases. She uses watercolor and colored pencils.

YELLOW Door Gallery, Inc. features the paintings and sculptures of Carlos Rocha until Dec. 7 at R1 Lifestyles Wing, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. The exhibit "Carlos" presents a joyful view of life and a study of motion and stillness.



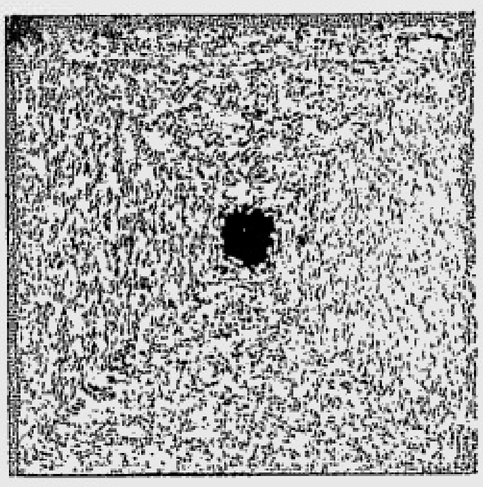
"SLEEPING Beauty," oil, by Popo San Pascual at Hiraya



"THE Prayer" by Alan Sycip at Art Citi

TAM Austria recently opened an exclusive two-day show at the Edsa Shangri-La. Shown during the ribbon-cutting are lawyer Sylvet Tankiang, the artist, Elizabeth Go and lawyer Elma Leogardo.

De Leon's abstractions in Mag:net Makati



"NOON"

THIS November, Pardo de Leon features recent works that focus on the meditative and philosophical potentials of abstraction in "Ragas," the artist's latest one-woman show at Mag:net Gallery, Makati.

A painting graduate of the UP College of Fine Arts, De Leon has widely experimented in abstraction largely as an expression of self and subjective consciousness.

The exhibit will have a closing reception on Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

Mag:net Gallery is located at Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Sedeno St., Makati City. Call 8177895 or e-mail magnet@info.com.ph.

The tireless . . .

From page D1

painting under Gabriel Custodio. His classmates were Romulo Olazo, Ting Ping Lay, Bungian and the late Antonio Chua.

During that time, he also met Leticia Custodio and Anastacia Mabuyac. The latter used her amputated arms in painting and eventually became the assistant instructor of National Artist Victorio Edades, the UST dean of Fine Arts.

Since graduating, Onglepho has exhibited here and abroad, especially Taiwan. From 1982 to 1984, he mounted three one-man exhibits in Taipei. From 1986 to 1995, Taiwan invited him four times to be a guest artist in its "National Art Group Show."

Since the establishment of the Asia Art Gallery at the Shangri-La Plaza in 1994, Onglepho has become more active in the local art scene, holding yearly one-man exhibits there.

"A Life in Art" also talks about Onglepho's encounters with Vicente Manansala, H.R. Ocampo and Cesar Legaspi. It also talks about his friendship with such artists as Malang and Ong Bungian.

James Onglepho's 23rd one-man exhibit opens on Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. It will mark the opening of the Art Plaza, the relocated and refurbished art. corner of Shangri-La Plaza. Guests of honor include Johnlu Koa, Jason Letran, Gilbert Dee Jr., Wilbert Lim and Leoncio Yee Jr. Call 6321433.

Artist's pet project

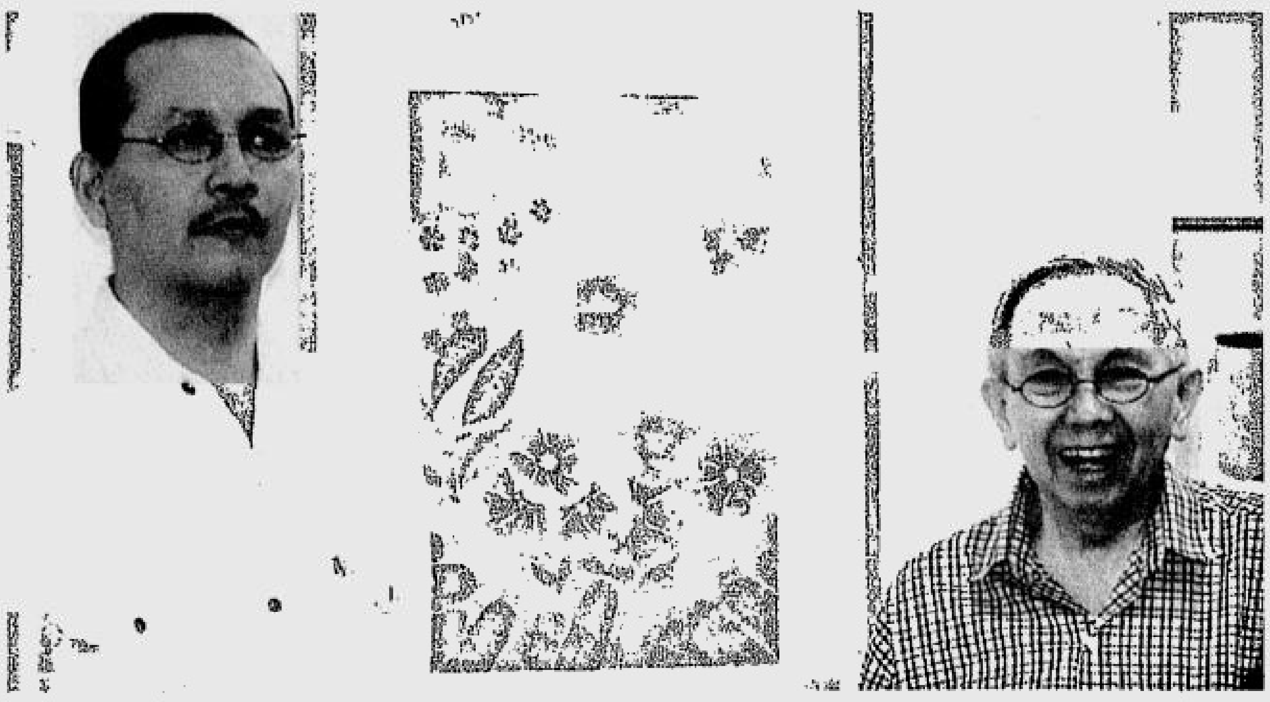
From page D1

The show is being co-sponsored by Merial Philippines Inc., a multinational company engaged in the distribution of imported animal medicine. With their products as the market leader in Asia, the company has a mission to care for animals worldwide.

To promote animal care, it is distributing its 2004 calendars, which feature selected watercolor paintings of the artist, a doubly memorable gift to give away to pet lovers of all ages.

A limited edition of the 2004 Merial Calendar is available during the show, until Dec. 12. Call 7256751.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



DR. Gersam Lukban and Fr. Eduardo Hontiveros, SJ, both stroke patients

Art as healer and magician

By Mariel N. Francisco
Contributor

WE are creatures, if not slaves of language, so what happens if we lose our ability to use and understand words?

This is the fate of stroke victims—a condition known as aphasia, caused by a lesion in the part of the brain that controls the faculty of speech. Aphasics have to cope with the extreme frustration of wanting to say something but failing to think of the words, and being unable to utter them.

But with courage and perseverance, an aphasic may find a new and deeper sense of life. Through the silenced body emerges the hidden powers of the soul.

This is apparently what art therapy achieves. "Healing Through the Arts," an exhibit of paintings by aphasics, was the inspired collaboration of the Philippine Heart Center and the Aphasia Foundation of the Philippines recently at the Heart Center lobby. The featured artists, Dr. Gersam Lukban and Dr. Emmanuel "Noel" Soriano, joined by their art therapist, Maria Abulencia, find expression for the marvelous and the mysterious that in turn evoke reverence and gratitude for life.

ART therapist Maria Abulencia with Dr. Emmanuel Soriano, Dr. Lukban and Dr. Manolo Marfa

True healing

At the opening of the exhibit , it was clear that true healing takes place through love and creativity—the interweaving of the life-giving intentions of the patient and the caregiver, surrounded by a community of friends and supporters.

It was Lukban's wife, Esa, who had the idea of holding the exhibit; and it was Soriano's wife, Angge, who proudly introduced everyone who had helped make it happen.

Soriano, former president of the University of the Philippines and National Security Director in the Cory Aquino government, suffered a stroke in July 1996 and has been having regular art therapy sessions with Abulencia since 1998. For the past four years, his daughter Rinna has organized exhibits of his works on his birthday, so his paintings now hang in the homes and offices of his many friends and associates.

Though confined to his wheelchair, Soriano looks hale, even vigorous. He has recovered some of his speech and can communicate through a range of expressive sounds and gestures, and even sing whole songs. His paintings reflect both his outward interests (two are of the UP Chapel) and an inner world teeming with power, prayer and playfulness.

Like Soriano, Gersam Lukban now poignantly refers to his very active professional and social life in the past tense. An orthopedic surgeon who comes from a family of hypertensives, he admits to not having paid much attention to his health. He was a hefty 220 lbs., fond of food, drinks and late nights-out when he was struck down in 1998. He was only 38 years old.

The painful lessons learned have totally changed his lifestyle. He is now quite trim, his weakened right arm hardly noticeable. He speaks haltingly but clearly, and with ironic humor describes his healing journey—from being "*gulay*" (practically a vegetable) after his stroke, to becoming the health buff he is now, eating mostly "*gulay*."

Serene

Now a veteran of six art exhibits, he exudes the serenity of having accepted the mystery of his becoming an artist by dint of illness.

Providing another dimension to the group exhibit is their art therapist Maria Abulencia. An artist, teacher and writer-researcher dedicated to the renewal and growth of Filipino spiritual culture, particularly of the Mount Banahaw area, Abulencia shows 20 of her own paintings for the first time.

All three artists employ the wet-on-wet watercolor technique which emphasizes the intrinsic value of color as a free-flowing quality. Essential to the healing approach intuited by the Austrian philosopher and visionary, Rudolf Steiner (founder of anthroposophy), the technique involves soaking the paper in water before applying the water-based paints, so that the media can offer emergent images rather than being compelled by preconceived forms. Hand and breath, brush and water, play with the spirits of color that illumine the world of nature and enliven the human soul.

One can guess that in such an approach, the relationship between client and therapist is not merely hand-in-hand but soul-to-soul. The therapist indeed leads the client to an aesthetic understanding of the world but in such a way as to find his own spirit in his personal world and out in the universe. Thus, even ostensibly external objects are not representations of sensory impressions but of living inner experiences. Life is felt as a unity among art, nature and spirit.

Aphasics recover speech and expression through the arts

I found myself lingering among the works of Lukban, who has evolved a folk-magical yet sophisticated style within the wet-on-wet technique. He depicts a veritable cosmic garden where flowers are a child's pinwheels ready to turn at the faintest kiss of a breeze, or the life-body's energy centers (chakras) propelling one to enlightenment. Softly billowing curtains framing invisible windows create a magical effect in the sense of seeing behind the veil of the sensory world.

A mystical quality comes from the clear yet permeable forms—rocks, leaves, nameless flora—uniting earth, wind and water. And for fire there hovers in each painting a sunburst of light and color, the painter's "I" or inner sun perhaps, bathing everything in the glow of oneness.

For Soriano and Lukban, as for all aphasics who have to learn to walk and talk all over again, it is as if they are brought back to childhood, a stage of development wherein, according to Steiner, the dividing line between magic, science and art does not exist. In that state where we are fully free to create, we can regain our wholeness.

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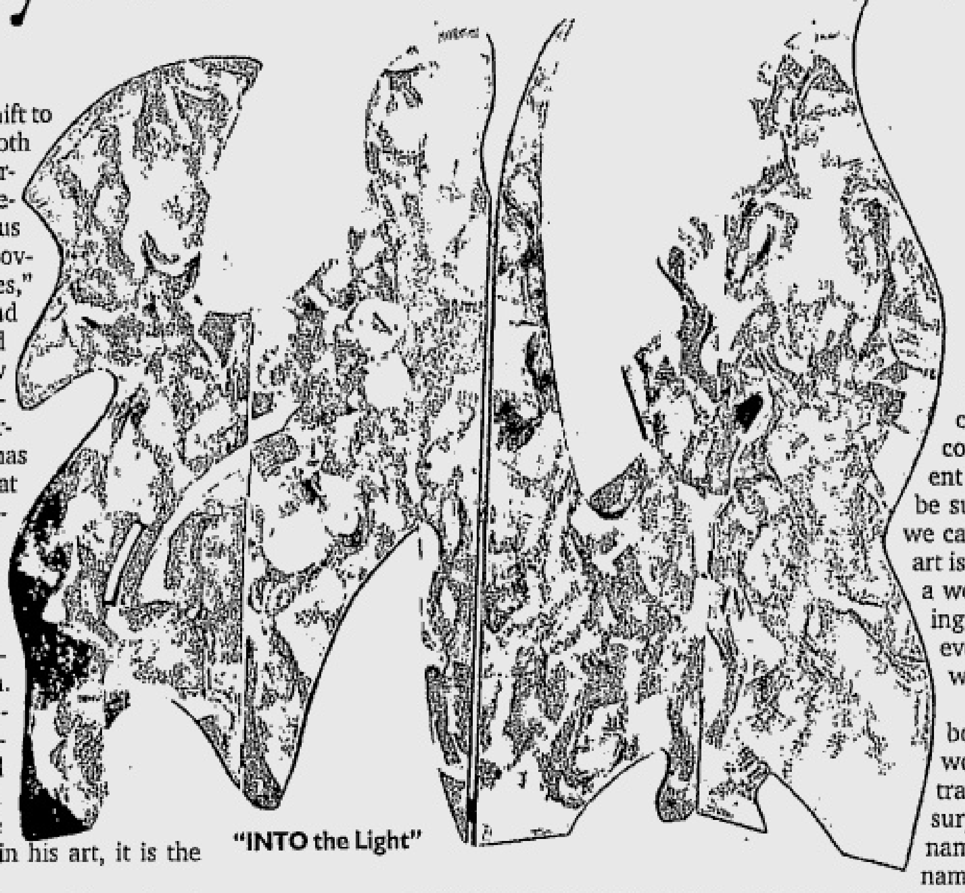
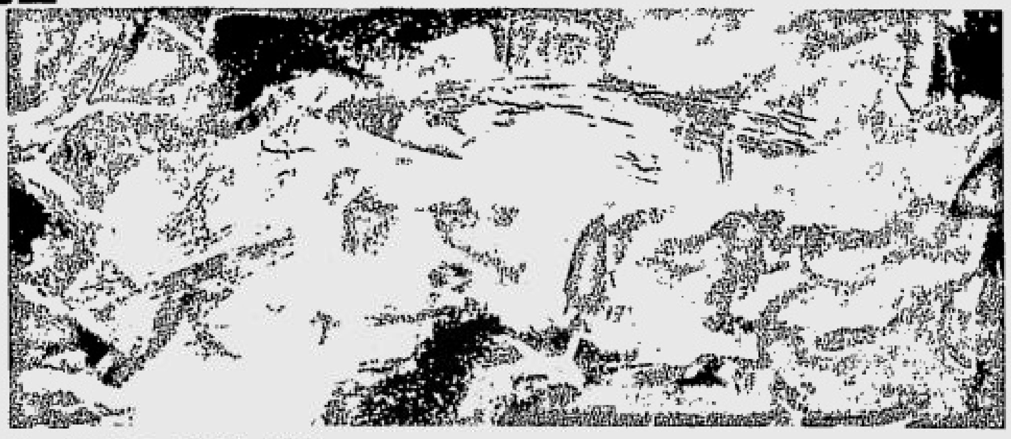
Wilwayco's fire in blue

By Lito B. Zulueta


"INTO the Light"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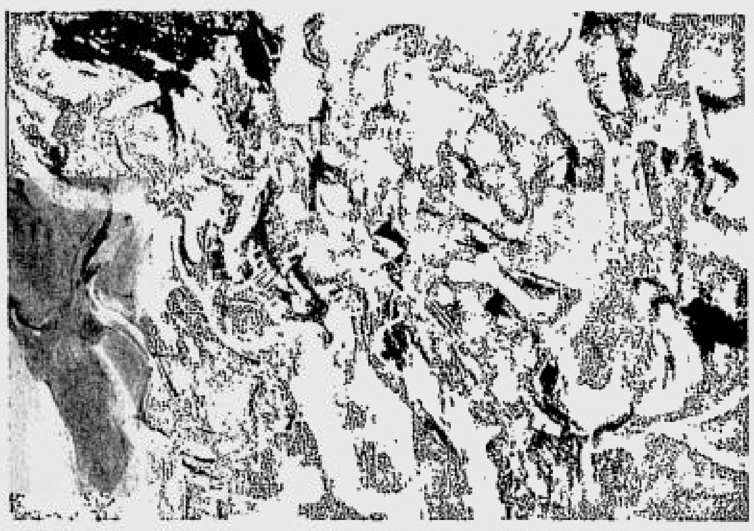
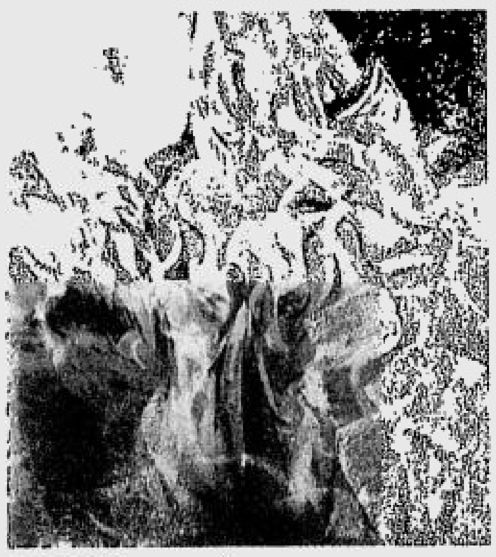

"MY Soul's Sanctuary I"


"RISQUE"

EDWIN Wilwayco's shift to blue figuration is both surprising and unsurprising. It is surprising because while his previous shows were generally governed by figures ("flag series," "hanger and rope, chain and cathedrals," "jeepney" and "vines"), his newest show plays with a dominant color. But then, it's hardly surprising since Wilwayco has all along trained his art at the most natural of phenomena—colors and their power to conjure and prefigure.

Thus, "Blue" is the natural outgrowth of Wilwayco's abstract expressionism. It cannot be otherwise because the artist has long essentialized the lines and figures that intrigue and captivate him, and if he has come to a dead end in his art, it is the dead end of purity.

Which is not to say Wilwayco has painted himself to an artistic corner, ended up in a rut, and consigned himself to limbo.

Purity, after all, is the goal of abstraction, which despite the polarity often summoned when abstract is contrasted with concrete, is really the purer expression of the specific and the substantial. Abstraction and figuration are in the same plane of reality; they differ only in expressivity. In this case, abstract expressionism is really an oxymoron, like the phrase "cruel kindness." Abstraction in itself is an expression; perhaps it's the goal of all art. So to make an "ism" out of expression is pushing the envelope, indeed.

But does purity render art simplistic? Does his thrust at greater abstraction render Wilwayco's art inconsequential?

Exploration

The point here is that Wilwayco's art in both concept and execution does not skirt the complexity that is inherent in art as exploration. To be sure, his "Blue phase," if we can call it that, shows his art is as much determined by a world reeking of abounding vitality as it is by an evolving consciousness, a will toward intrepidity.

But the vitality now is both recognition of the world as it is a drive to transcend it. This is not surprising since after the naming should come the unnaming. It is propitious, for example, that in launching his "Blue" series, Wilwayco should adumbrate the work of the Surrealist poets. In the hazy meanderings of their consciousness, the Surrealists both latched upon life and were released from it.

Rimbaud perhaps was the foremost poet to explore the synaesthetic qualities of colors. In "Voyelles," he painted the vowel "O" as blue. In another poem, he wrote about "blue summer nights." In a poem about a ship, he described the "blue and yellow heavings of a phosphorescent song." But one should not associate blue all the time with august scenes since in another poem, Rimbaud talked about "azure snot."

Rimbaud best represented perhaps the obscene art of the pastiche of the symbolists. His early decadent life and his mysterious later life of commerce should represent concretely the antipodal sensibilities of the Surrealists. This is not surprising, too, since early on, he had talked about the poetics that governed his writing: the "derangement of the senses."

'Blues' reveals an intrepid spirit

It could be said then that Wilwayco's art is in the current of derangement—of refocusing, adjustment, exploration and adventure. But is the trajectory haywire and nebulous?

Not so, art critic Cid Reyes seems to say in his very informative critique in the catalogue to the exhibit. "No doubt," he writes, "Wilwayco intended the 'Blues' works as religious paintings. Indeed, even without the allusions of his titles to Deity, the works emit a field of energy, a halation of light, suggesting transcendence."

So, Wilwayco's "Blues" are not so much a derangement, but a divining of the senses. It is a series of spiritual fire, an art of purity and theology.

Wilwayco's "Blues," organized by Galleria Duemila, runs at the Art Center of the SM Megamall until Nov. 29. Call 8339815 or 6336687.

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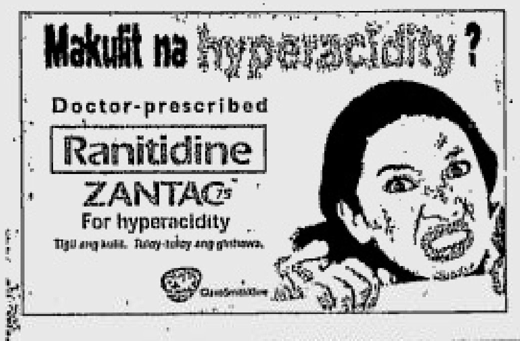
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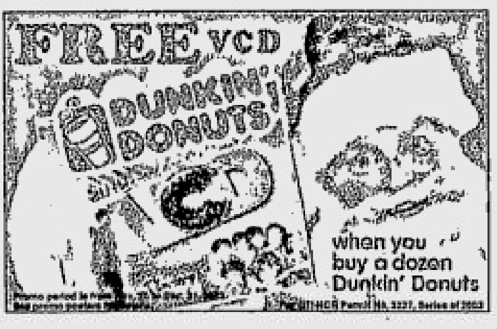
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Namcya holds international music fest in CCP and Bulacan

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

IF YOU had listened to and been awed by a musical performance by a youthful solo performer or an ensemble in the Western genre or in Philippine traditional music, chances were that solo performer or ensemble was a Namcya winner.

This week, from Nov. 24 to 29, the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (Namcya), which is responsible for discovering musical talents, celebrates its 30th anniversary with the holding of an International Young People's Festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, with outreach performances in Bulacan province.

This was disclosed recently in a press launch at Merk's Bistro Bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati City, which was expertly emceed by Bonjin Bolinao. Lunch and drinks were courtesy of Roni Tapia-Merk, who is a staunch supporter of the musical arts.

The festival is co-presented by the Provincial Government of Bulacan, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education. The opening ceremonies will be held today at 5 p.m. at the Malolos Provincial Capitol while the closing ceremonies will be on Nov. 29, 6 p.m., at the CCP Main Theatre.

According to Verne de la Peña, Namcya's secretary-general, the festival is presented every three years to feature the winners of the two preceding competitions. Namcya chair Emmanuel Velasco explained this year's festival is the fifth since1991, and will be attended by more than 600 participants.

Discover young talents

Notwithstanding the economic crisis, Namcya has managed to fulfill the twin task it has been mandated to perform by Presidential Proclamation 1173 that created NAMCYA in 1973—to discover and to develop young talents in music.

This year's theme is "Kung Maaari Sana," adapted from National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario's poem bearing the same title, and "Pangarap, Adhikain at Musika" (Kung Maaari Sana–Pangarap, Adhikain at Musika).

Almario said that he was surprised to see his poem set into music by National Artist for Music Lucrecia R. Kasilag. The work had served as Namcya's contest piece for its choral competition in the late '80s.

Almario noted that the poem is a sad, cynical commentary on life, so he never thought it would serve as an inspiration to the youth. He called on the public to support Namcya with the same enthusiasm they give to sports.

Former NAMCYA winners performed to the delight of the audience. They were John Raymond Sarreal (flute); Roberto Gonzalo Sarreal (clarinet); Jacob Gabriel Sarreal (clarinet); Ma. Katrina Saporsantos (soprano); and Diomedes Saraza, Jr. (violin). Providing assistance at the piano was Noel de la Rosa.

The San Beda College Male Chorale, under the directorship of Robert Delgado, capped the briefing with a performance "Kung Maaari Sana," with soprano Saporsantos.

The festival's main concerts will be held at the CCP Main Theatre and will be moved to municipal venues in Bulacan as outreach performances to bring culture and the arts to the grass roots.

The outreach program was made possible by the leadership of Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and the support of the mayors of the towns of San Rafael, Baliuag, Pulilan, Malolos, Plaridel, Meycauayan, Guiginto, Hagonoy and Sta. Maria, where the performances will be held.

Bulacan is home to two National Artists in Music, the late composers Antonino Buenaventura and Ernani Cuenco. Nicanor Abelardo and Francisco Santiago, also come from the province.

The festival will feature six choirs, seven rondalla ensembles, five traditional music ensembles and 17 soloists from 16 regions of the country, all of whom have won in previous Namcya competitions since 2000.

Performers

The choirs are Lal-lo North District Children's Choir; Loboc Children's Choir; Ilocos Norte High School Choir; Isabela National High School Jubiloso Choir; Camarines Sur National High School Youth Choir; and San Beda College Chorale.

The rondalla groups are Sta. Rita de Cascia Children's Rondalla; Nabua West District Elementary Rondalla; M.H. del Pilar High School Rondalla; Francisco Felix National High School Rondalla; Nabua National High School Rondalla; Kabataang Silay Rondalla Ensemble; and Dimlao Youth Rondalla.

Solo vocal performers include Bernacel Doyo, Kris Pagente, Karlyn Kimberly Kwok, Aizel Izza Prietos, and Katrina Saporsantos.

Solo instrumental performers in piano are Ma. Regina Montesclaros, Hannah Lyn Tan, Meriam Dungog, Stephanie Alexis Cruz, Eunice Quiñones, and Jude Edgard Balsamo.

Other solo instrumentalists are Diomedes Saraza, Jr. and Jimmy Tagala (violin); Crystal Milarose Rodis and John Raymond Sarreal (flute); and Jacob Gabriel Sarreal and Roberto Gonzalo Sarreal (clarinet).

Traditional music ensembles will include the Kariala Gong Ensemble; Cudog Traditional Ensemble; Daing Choral Ensemble; Pakipak Family Ensemble; San Jose Malnak Familia Sam-ngal Kastipon; and Basilan Yakan Family Ensemble.

Foreign guest performers are the Sunny Children's Musical Theatre from Taiwan; Norwegian Gro Marie Svidal, who will play on the harganger fiddle, a traditional fiddle of Norway; and Norwegian folk singer Solberg Tveiten.

A workshop by the Philippine Society for Music Education will be held daily at the Hiyas ng Bulakan Convention Center in Malolos City.

Tickets are available at popular prices and discounted rates for students and senior citizens. Call the Namcya Office at telephones 5515091; 5519054 and 8321120 locals 109 and 116.

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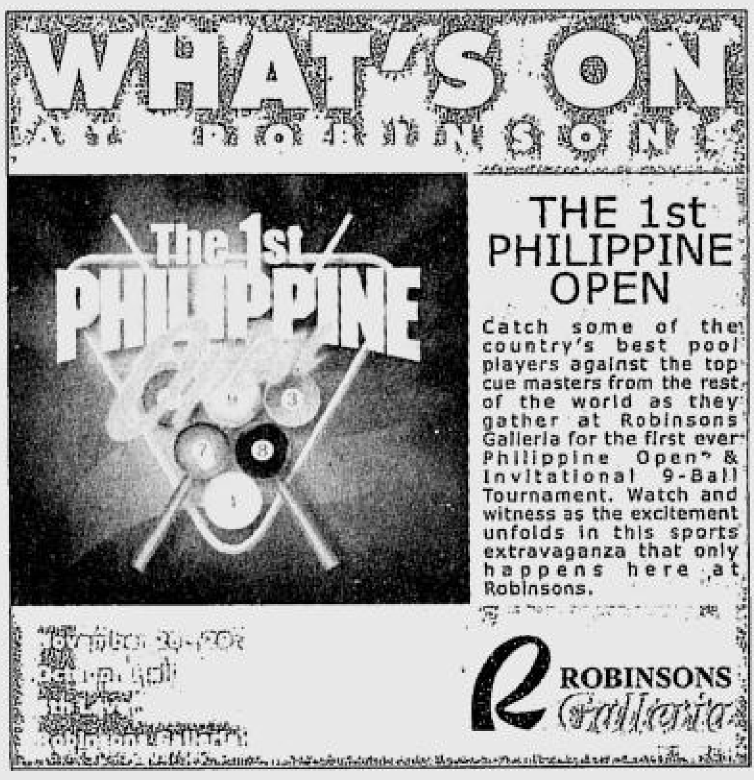
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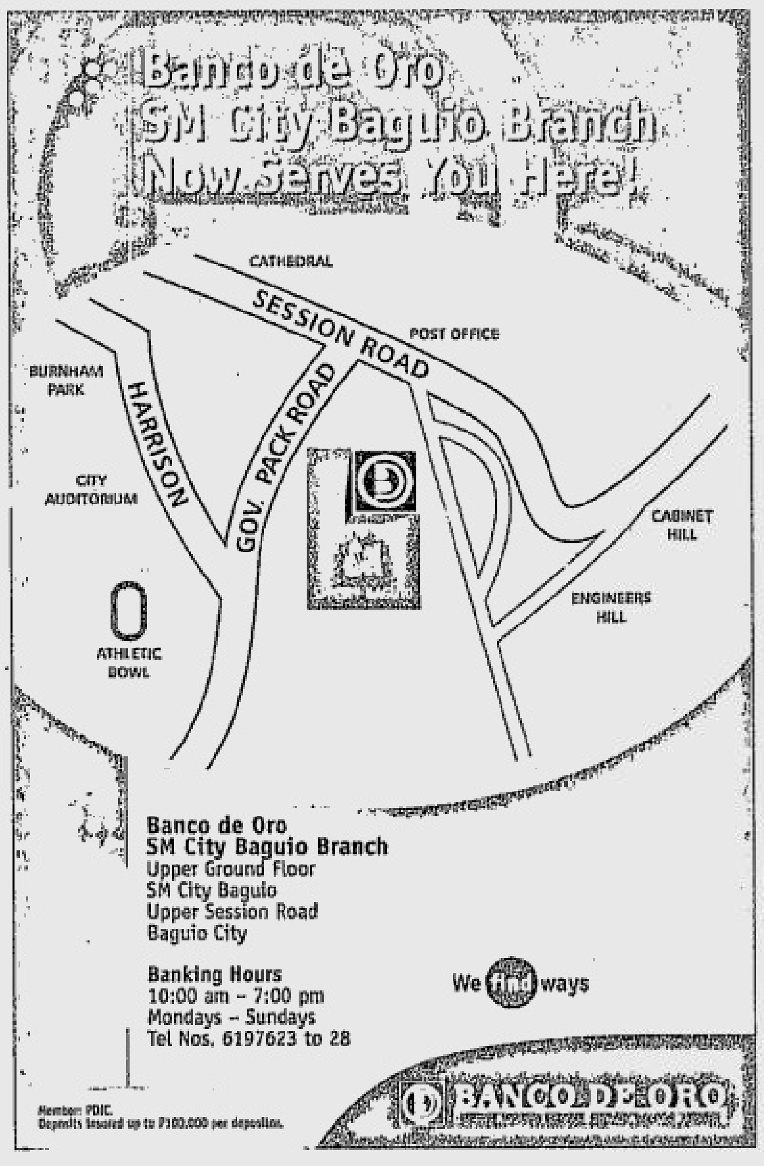
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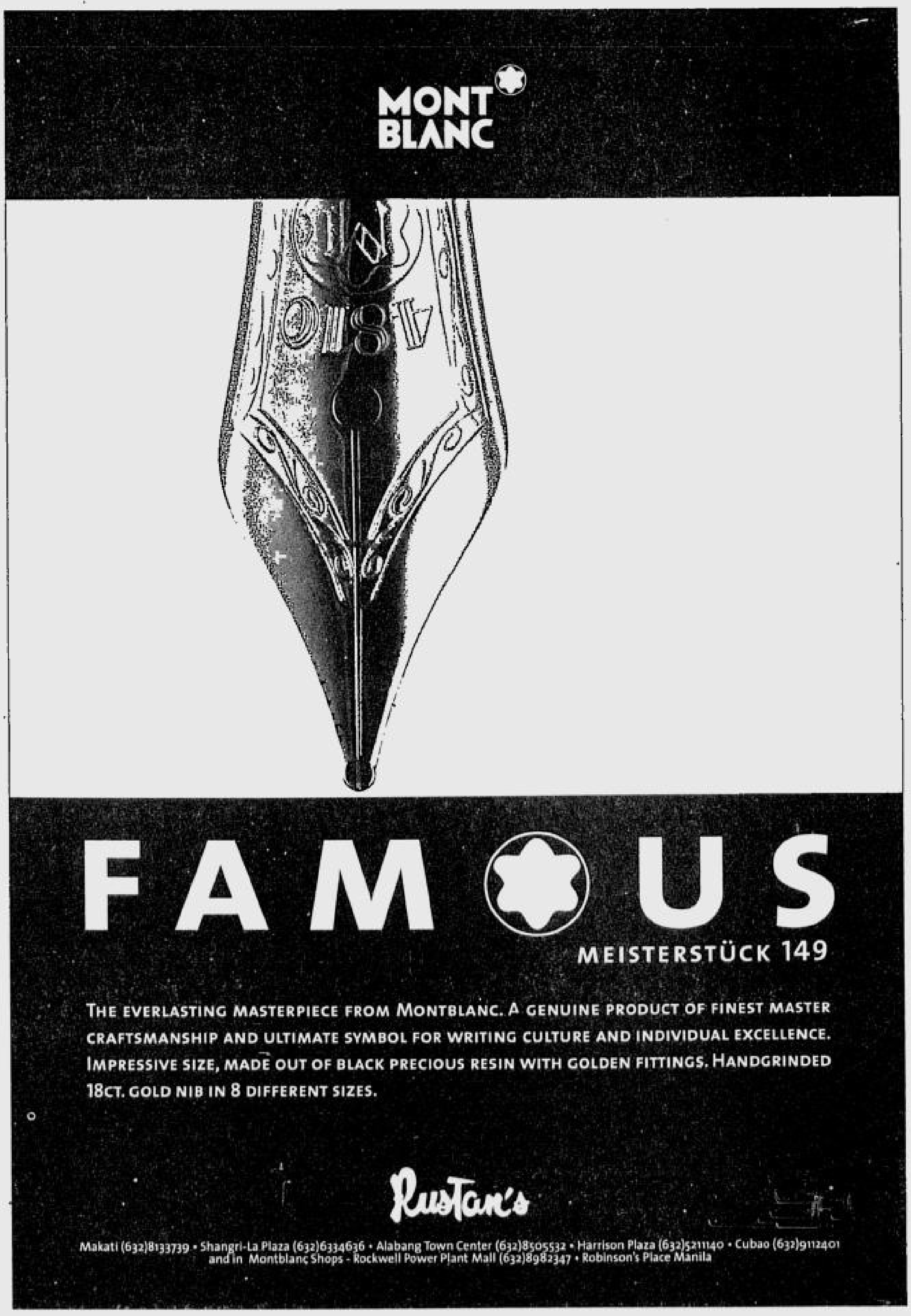
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This 'Nutcracker' comes with a rigodon de honor

By Joyce C. Abaño

Ballet Philippines Filipinizes a well-loved ballet classic

AFTER the contemporary ballet "Darna," Ballet Philippines dancers will be donning their ballet shoes and dancing on *sur les pointes* for the company's version of the annual holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines this December.

Ballet enthusiasts will definitely be seeing more *fouettés*, *cabrioles*, *bourrées* and several combination steps typical of a classical ballet in this yuletide show which will be danced under the familiar, relaxing and enchanting strains of Pyotr Il'yich (Peter Ilyich) Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet Suite.

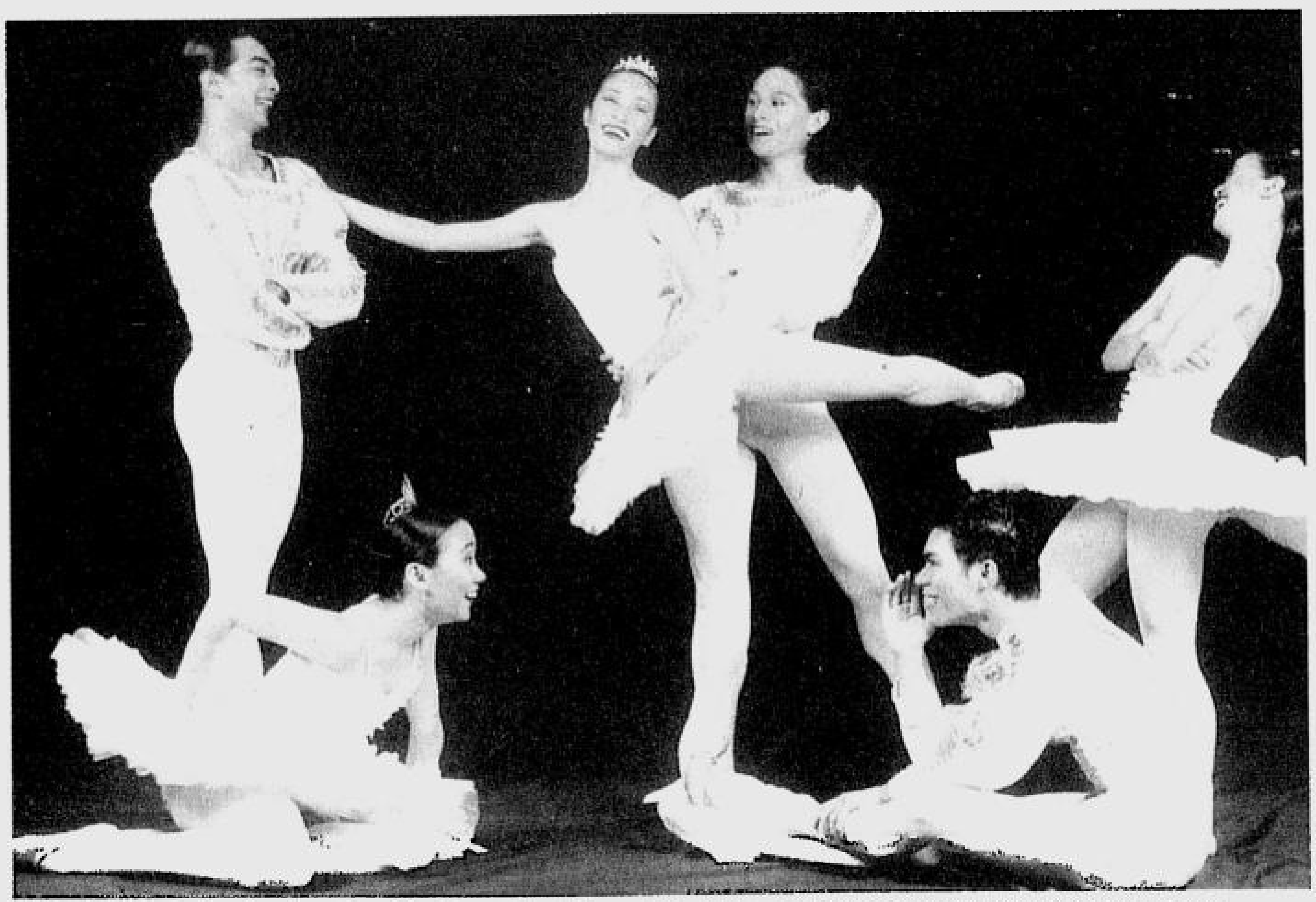
But the production will be staged with Filipino flair.

Edna Vida, who is choreographing with Ida Beltran Lucila and Denisa Reyes, said she will revive the choreography she did with Alice Reyes in 1987. That ballet came complete with a rigodon de honor.

Vida said she would add the Pinoy dash to make the people appreciate the show more.

"That's why we're bringing in traditional Filipino values," Vida said. "The Nutcracker is highly European with a European setting, so we decided to do it in Filipino splendor... we brought in the *noche buena*, preceded by a grand rigodon for the party scene in Act I and in this gathering we've shown traditional practices, like *pagmamano*. This is Manila in the 1920s."

"The setting is in a beautiful, ornate, Baroque 1920s Filipino house," Denisa said, "and Badong Bernal will do the design as he did it before... and the characters are Filipinos, in short, it is a Filipinized Nutcracker."



THE THREE pairs dancing the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince: Irish Abejero, Mica Bernas, Jojo Mamangun, Hanedy Sala, Clark Rambuyon and Kris-Belle Paclibar

Fireflies, not snowflakes

To make the ballet even more appealing to young viewers, Ballet Philippines has made a few changes in Act II. "Instead of using snowflakes, we decided to use fireflies," Ida Beltran said. "We don't have snow here so we substituted it with fireflies. So now we call it the Kingdom of the Fireflies instead of the Kingdom of the Snowflakes."

The Sugar Plum Fairy will be alternately played by Kris-Belle Paclibar, Mica Bernas and Hanedy Sala; the Nutcracker Prince by Clark Rambuyon, Irish Abejero and Jojo Mamangun; Don Alfonso de Quintero by Alden Lugnasin, and Clara by Wendy Esteban and Lynne Leveille.

Ballet Philippines has drafted the young ballerinas from Steps dance studio for this presentation.

"I'm really enjoying this very much," Vida said. "But I have found it hard, for the most part, to choreograph the battle scene because it's hard to keep count with the music. Everybody's rehearsing day in and day out to give the audience a quality performance."

The collaborators said that the *divertissement* is really something to look forward to. "It is in this act where we see Clara taken to the Kingdom of the Sweets by the Sugar Plum Fairy," Vida said. "And it is where you'll see the grand *pas de deux* with its four variations; the *pas de deux*, the male variation, the female variation and the coda; the Arabian dance, the Russian dance, the Chinese dance, the dance of the Reed pipes and the waltz of the flowers. The kids will love it."

As for the *rigodon*, Reyes said that it is their way of letting their ballet patrons be part of the show.

"Take Sofia Zobel-Elizalde for instance," Reyes said. "She used to play Clara when she was a little girl, and now, we're bringing her back to take part of this timeless Christmas classic and be part of the *rigodon de honor*."

Other rigodon guests Ballet Philippines is lining up are: Luli Arroyo, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Bea Zobel, Gilda Grande, Kit Zobel, Patsy Zobel, Margarita Delgado, Sevrine Miaihle, Marilen Elizalde, Claudia Tambunting, Gemma Garcia, Nina Huang, Kerry Uytengsu, Mia Borromeo, Tim Yap, Rajo Laurel, Nonoy Froilan, Anton San Diego, Joel Ujuico, Juan Miguel Onsiako, Junie Peña, Eduardo Delgado, Eduard Miaihle, Santiago Elizalde, Inno Manalo, Alfredo Roca, Anton Huang and Fred Uytengsu.

Ballet Philippines' "The Nutcracker" opens on Dec. 5 with a gala at 8 p.m. and runs until Dec. 16 at the CCP Main Theater. Call 5511003 or 8326011. Visit www.ballet.com.ph

Symphonic music lures audience

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

The San Miguel Philharmonic and the UST Symphony show vibrant and exciting orchestral mettle

TWO orchestras lured music lovers with the magic of classical as well as pop symphonic music on two different occasions in two different venues.

At Intramuros, in the makeshift Clamshell 2, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO), spiced the celebration of the Philippine Heritage Month, with the vibrant strains of Philippine as well as standard Western pop music. Conducted by boyish-looking Arnel Feliciano, the SMPO dished out lovely tunes from OPM hits such as "Dahil Sa Iyo;" "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal;" "Ikaw;" "Saan Ka Man Naroroon Sinta;" "Minamahal Kita;" "Maalaala mo Kaya;" "Mr. Suave;" the "Sex Bomb/Ispageti" medley; and selections from the Broadway hit, "West side Story"; movie themes such as "Star Wars" and "Mission Impossible"; "Michelle" by the Beatles and many more. Fittingly, the concert was dubbed, "Hits on Parade."

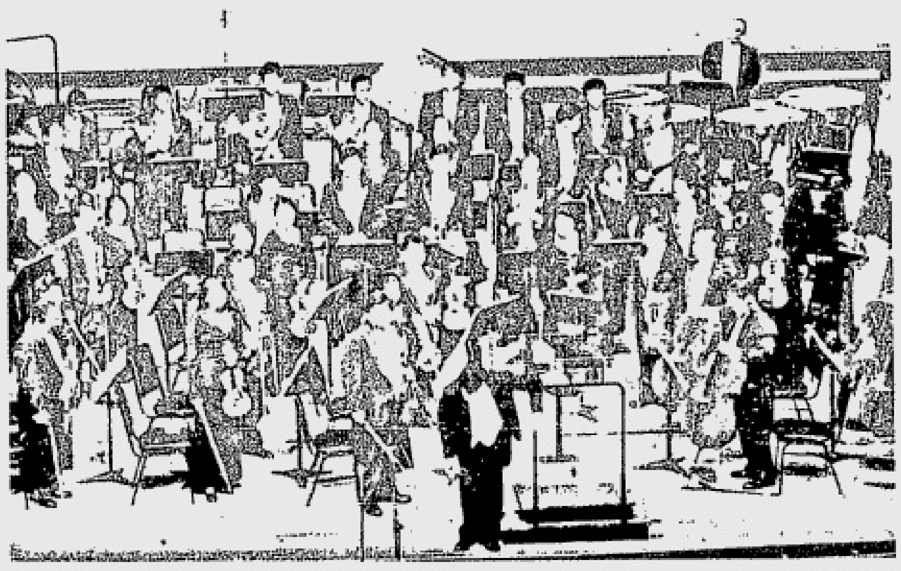
Virtually, the Walled City's main avenue, Gen. Luna, was transformed instantly into Tin Pan Alley with the playing of such hit tunes that whiffed an air of nostalgia. It was, indeed, a glorious night of listening down memory lane. The audience, which jampacked the shell, hummed along, reliving memories of the good past, when life, as reflected by the spirit of the songs, was good and unhurried.

The OPM numbers sounded novel. Only because Ryan Cayabyab, the country's leading pop-music composer and arranger, had done them. Ryan masterly infused the element of surprise in his arrangements. This he did by being unconventional, by not duplicating what the veterans of Philippine music had done. For instance he veered away from borrowing a familiar tune to introduce a selection, a thing that had characterized arrangements of the masters of the past. In "Minamahal Kita," for example, he used a fanfare in the introduction. It at once got the attention of the listeners who, because there was no program that was distributed, was left guessing what the piece would be. Once the melody was intoned, the audience would simply burst into applause. And yet the tempo was modified. From a slow, cantabile manner, the work unfolded in a flowing waltz, some people in the audience simply swayed to the beat.

Admirable too was his instrumentation. In "Dahil sa Iyo," the horns doubled the violins in essaying the melody towards the latter part; virtually creating a fine and palpable texture that spelled much warmth and caress. Again, Ryan's creativity was at its height here. He detached the introduction and inserted it in the middle, structuring it thus into a three-part song.

Solo instruments were relied upon in etching the melodic line. This had much educational impact on the public, as many, perhaps for the first time, would know how such instruments sounded like. In "Dahil sa Iyo" the oboe (Jose Rommel Gregara) was heard; in "Saan Ka Man Naroroon Sinta," the cello (Francisco Llorin) and the violin (Dino Decena).

The non-OPM numbers were likewise applauded very much. When the Beatles' "Michelle" was intoned, the audience hushed, and listened intently. The piece was simply ravishing it sent one's hair stand on its end. Nepthalie Villanueva (French horn) and Decena (violin), the concertmaster, alternated in playing the solo parts.



SAN Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra

The audience had more delightful listening when the orchestra rocked them with the current hit, "Mr. Suave," complete with fanfare etched by Robert de Pano, trumpet. The evening ended quite fully what with the rousing "Sex-Bomb/Spaghetti Medley" played as a finale.

All told, the SMPO has proven to be a versatile orchestra that can play both classical as well as pop music. The orchestra is noted for its fresh, homogenous sound, as practically the musicians are young, who could visibly work out an outstanding sense of ensemble playing. Donned in their gala attire with matching well-polished shoes, they simply appeared marvelous on stage, disciplined and debonair.

Enthralling UST

At the CCP Main Theatre, the UST Symphony Orchestra (USTSO) enthralled its listeners with a touch of the classic as it opened its concert season. Conducted by Renato Lucas, the USTSO played with two outstanding soloists, Yeh Shu-Han, trumpet, and Marites Fernandez, piano.

A student orchestra, as it is, the USTSO played quite impressively. Having heard it before in a rehearsal, I have always thought that the USTSO had much potential. The musicians are all student of the Pontifical University's Conservatory of Music, and all have zest and enthusiasm, and more important, the stamina, to ensure an impressive performance. By the time that they were on stage, all the rough edges had been polished, and ensemble work was well oiled.

The program was meaty, all 20th century works that was nearly all-Russian too, except for Sibelius' "Koulema:Valse Triste". The rest were Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1, Arutunjan's Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, and Prokofief's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major.

Conductor Lucas wielded the baton with authority, holding his baton tightly, he incisively cued his musicians. Rapport was tight; there never was a slightest chance for the musicians to commit mistakes. Lucas knew too well his music, and so did the musicians. Lucas practically got what he wanted from them—from articulate phrasing, to convincing dynamic contrast, even tempo, and the like.

The soloists played with much vigor and eagerness. Mr. Yeh Shu-Han, who knew his music fully well, impressed the audience with the ease he played the trumpet. His tone was suave and very lyrical. He essayed difficult passages, including the demanding cadenza, with keen virtuosity. His manner of playing made the trumpet a well-appreciated instrument, as generally it is thought not to be a solo instrument.

Maritess Fernandez playing was an auspicious comeback. For years, she was sorely missed on the local concert stage. She played thoroughly, clean and sparkling. Her fingers were tremendously fearsome, so articulate they strike the keys with precision. Although more power was wanting, she cut a stance of a seasoned pianist. She did not leave anything to chance, as she fully knew the music, and was in perfect rapport with conductor Lucas. Manila's music lovers are eager to hear more from her. We wish she would find time to come back and play more.

Incidentally, the two young conductors are both faculty members of the UST Conservatory of Music and were colleagues at the PPO. Arnel Feliciano, a percussionist, has joined the SMPO while Lucas, the principal cellist, has stuck it out with the PPO, although at times he guest conducts SMPO during rehearsals.

Wacky play tackles 2004 elections

"ELECTILE Dysfunction," a wacky, rib-tickling presentation on the electoral process and a parody of presidential characters, will have its run on Nov. 24-27 and on Dec. 3 - 7 at the Republic of Malate on Mabini St., Malate, Manila.

The play stars veteran performers Cynthia Patag, Boboy Garovillo, Dyords Javier, Nonie Buencamino, Robert Seña, Robbie Guevarra and Patricia Ysmael with the special participation of Boy Abunda. It is directed by Leo Rialp.

Conceptualized and produced by Jac B' Nimble and In Focus Event Management and Production, "Electile Dysfunction" is a rambunctious romp over the dizzy terrain of the colorful, showbizzy and circus-lope Philippine politic.

Will the candidates try to stage election fraud or break any promise made? Will the audience be able to cut through me rhetoric and the hype?

Will God take sides? Will the common *tao* find happiness and peace in the new order? Will there be flying votes, missing ballots and other staples of Philippine elections?

Will there be a *coup d' etat* and will the audience make the right decision? Who will be the last man standing?

Find the answer to those questions in this zany stage production as it would guide or misguide the public in their choice of a president in the coming 2004 elector.

Be a vital witness as you will decide later in the evening on who will stay alive or who will end in tragedy.

This show is for the benefit of Aksiyon Agad Foundation. It is sponsored by Smart Hair Specialists Bend Chavez, Bey Enriquez and Lolit Mercado. Official radio stations are dzRH, YES FM and Love Radio.

For group bookings and ticket inquiries, call 8433836; 8433503 or text 0917-843381 and 0916-3359758.

NICK Joaquin's classic drama, "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," will be staged at Puerta Real on Nov. 24, 25, 26 by the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Academic Theatre (with the special participation of Artistang Artlets). The theater group is headed by UST Regent Fr. José Antonio Aureada, O.P., who plays Bitoy Camacho, the poet who recounts the elegiac play on "Manila de nuestros amores." The other cast members are (from left) Prof. Naty Crame Rogers, Prof. Florina Castillo, Dr. Belen Tangco, Dr. Cristina Cabral, Dr. Grace de la Calzada, Dr. Milagros Tanlayco, Dr. Mecheline Manalastas, and Prof. Luz de Guzman. Rogers directs, while Lamberto Avellana Jr. handles the music. Jimmy Rapanut is lighting director. Call 7314003.

Tirso de Molina's 'Don Juan' shows how evil thrives

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

THE ECONOMY seems on irrecoverable decline, and institutions, once the protector of the public trust, clash to safeguard their own interests. As anarchy follows and threatens society's moral compass, the confused, enraged mass of humanity blames rulers, gods and demons.

Sounds familiar? It seems things haven't really changed much since 16th-century Spanish writer Tirso de Molina wrote his *comedia* "Don Juan of Seville" ("El Burador de Seville").

World-power Spain then was on the verge of losing its empire. Its kings and noblemen have fallen prey to corruption and cronyism. The Church, a power on its own right, is calling for a return to good old-fashioned morality as people clamor for order and decency, even as they are losing hope.

Molina gives his audience a villain to hate, the titular Don Juan, an aristocratic playboy who is as charming as he is ruthless, as seductive as he is totally unscrupulous.

In Tanghalang Ateneo's (TA) Tagalog production of "Don Juan: Ang Babaero ng Sevilla," he is played by perennial theater leading man Jay Españo. Don Juan courts his women, promises them wedded bliss, beds them and leaves them. Thanks to his father's connections, he gets away with it.

DON Juan suffers the wrath of society

JAY Españo as Don Juan

Retribution

At the end of the play, as the shocked masses hunger for his blood, Molina brings in divine retribution. It is the staunchly Catholic author's way of saying that the Almighty or organized religion will step in if social checks-and-balance fail.

In National Artist Salvador Bernal's baroque-heavy production design, a huge devil's mask with an equally monstrous mouth literally chomps down on Don Juan and swallows him.

Director Ricky Abad, though, creates his own ending and lets the specter of the villain linger near the final curtain. It seems evil has not been totally expurgated.

For that, you can blame society. Abad says the apparently simplistic plot of "Don Juan" carries a far deeper message: The evil personified by Don Juan actually represents or is tolerated by the collective evil being committed around him. Except for one courageous, outspoken servant (Joseph de la Cruz), the people who protest Don Juan's actions are not innocent, either.

"The evil in society has accumulated and the law has become powerless," explains Abad, who is also a professor in the Ateneo's sociology and anthropology department. "You have two powerful opposing forces, the State and the Church. From the very beginning, Don Juan has been portrayed as evil. He admits that he is a black sheep; [that's his] origin and motivation. Yet, as he starts his campaign of seduction, he exposes the hypocrisy and problems of society."

As the play progresses, Abad continues, "We see fathers selling their own daughters to gain power. We see Spanish society's restrictions toward women; but by encouraging them to be more vocal and outspoken, Don Juan unwittingly encouraged these women to liberate themselves. You see abuses in power being tolerated. Don Juan himself was caught once and should have been brought to court—but a powerful uncle intervened."

Archetypes

Abad advises the audience not to watch the play "literally" or at face value, but to "study the archetypes." The rich symbolism that peppers the script points to a larger-than-life drama between the good and evil that take root in men's hearts.

The expansive stage of Ateneo's Irwin Theater will certainly underscore this scale, complemented by Bernal's set of moving abstract pieces. The cast will certainly look like players in one cosmic drama.

While the costumes adhere to 16th-century fashion, the language of Salvador Malig's Filipino translation will be more contemporary in style, perhaps to underscore that while the script is a classic morality play, the issues remain pressing and relevant.

As Abad says, Don Juan's body may have been subject to execution, but his "ghost comes back." Perhaps he still feels at home in the world he left behind, a society that Abad describes as one continually "doting to its sinners and saints."

It then begs the question: How can the people make him permanently leave?

Tanghalang Ateneo's "Don Juan: Ang Babaero ng Sevilla" opened on Nov. 21 at the Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila University and will run for several weeks. Call 4266001 local 5331.

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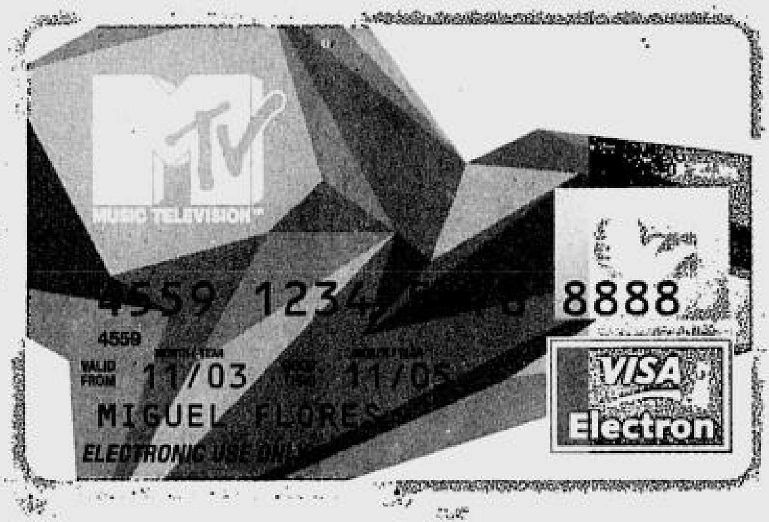

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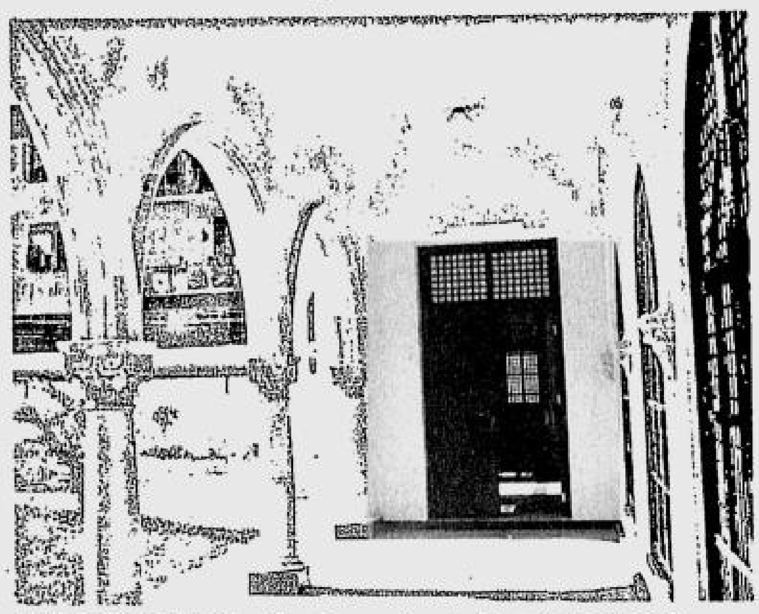

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Augusto F. Villalon

The Unesco award for Gota de Leche in ugly Manila has put Philippine heritage efforts on the world map

THE HISTORIC Gota de Leche building in Manila is now on the international heritage roster. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) recognized the excellence of its restoration by awarding it an honorable mention in the 2003 Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

Dr. Richard Engelhardt, regional adviser for culture in Asia-Pacific, traveled to Manila last week to present the honorary plaque and certificates to all those involved in the project: Lourdes Almeda-Lopez Sarabia (executive director of Gota de Leche), Jainab Tajil-Atillero (conservation engineer), Ani Katrina de Leon (landscape architect), Liliane Rejante Manahan (historic finishing and coloring expert), and Felicisimo M. Consuelo (contractor).

As lead conservation architect and coordinator of the project, I was brought back full circle to my roots: my grandfather, Dr José Fabella, was once a Gota de Leche president.

The Gota de Leche building, situated in a congested area of Manila, was restored to its original appearance of 1917. The rental building attached to it in the recent past was removed to offer clear sight lines from the street and vehicular access.

The charitable program of providing free pediatric care and milk to indigent children through Gota de Leche (drop of milk) has been maintained since the building opened.

The Unesco citation reads: "The careful restoration of the 1917 Gota de Leche building provides a welcome model for preserving Manila's rich architectural and social history. The removal of unsympathetic additions, the restoration of the original landscaping, and the use of traditional crafts and skills in repairing the dilapidated building have been undertaken within a clear and low-intervention conservation framework.

"Returning the building to its original appearance and prominence in the University Belt neighborhood provides a worthy and appropriate setting for the sustained operation of Gota de Leche's charitable programs, while demonstrating a commendable commitment to advancing the local conservation agenda."

Advancing the local conservation agenda is the operative phrase. Clearly Gota de Leche is a success story in the roller-coaster record that conserving Manila heritage has become.

Destructive Manila government

All we have to do is remember the Jai Alai, Mehan Garden, and the Arroceros Forest Park to realize how destructive insensitive city agendas are to preserving Manila.

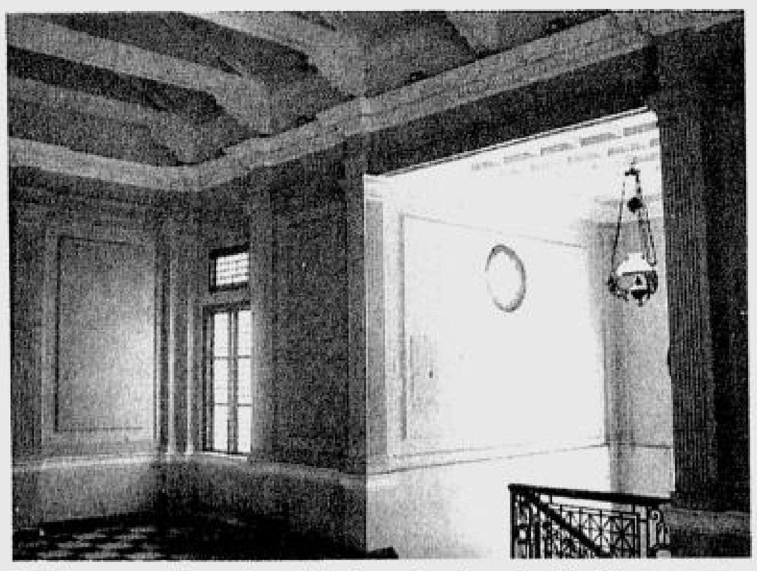
Is there a conservation agenda in Manila? For that matter, is conservation on the national agenda?

What Gota de Leche proves is that private initiative, not Mayor Lito Atienza's or the national government's initiatives, will eventually preserve our heritage.

Since most of our culture's heritage is in private hands, it is through the determination and commitment of private owners that our country's heritage can be preserved.

Private heritage preservation initiatives in Manila include, among others, the Orchid Garden Hotel, the Instituto Cervantes building, the Bahay Nakpil in Quiapo and the Far Eastern Uni-

DROP/F4



ON the second floor, the original woodwork and original trusses are finished in Italian Renaissance painting techniques by finishing expert Liliane Rejante Manahan.

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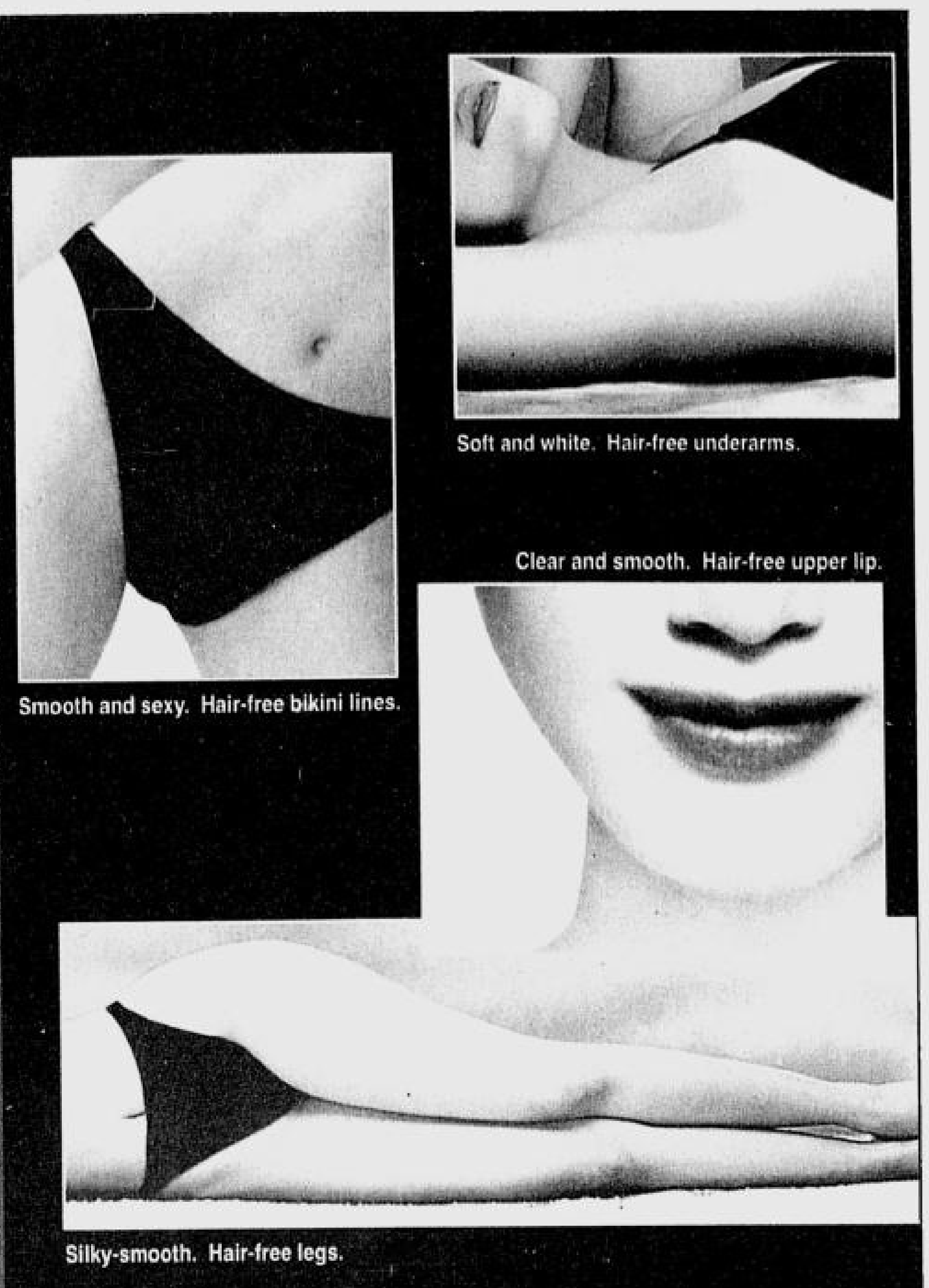

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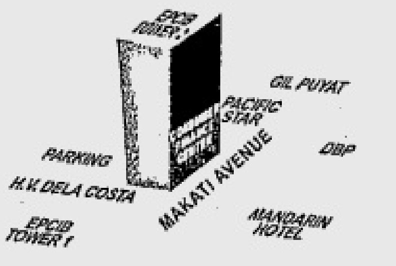

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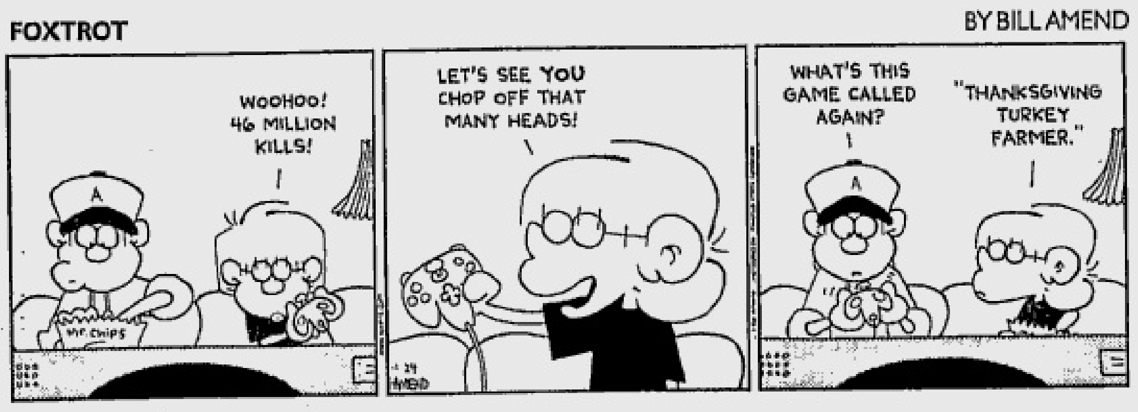
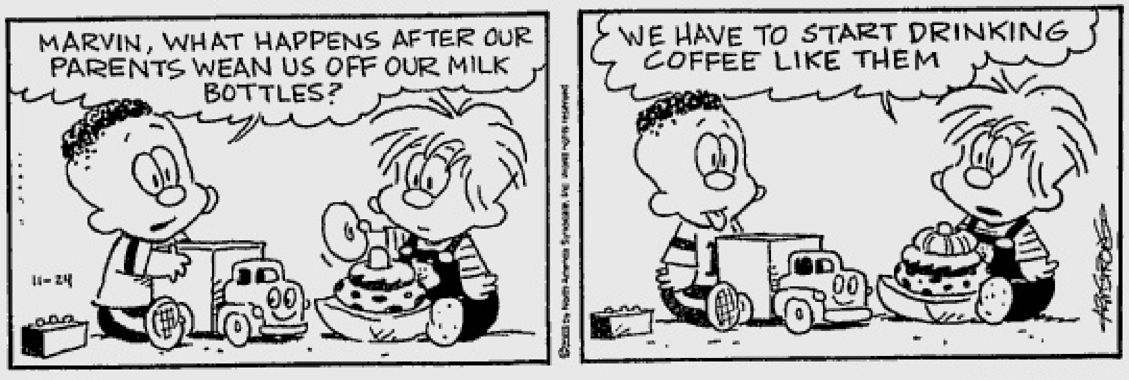
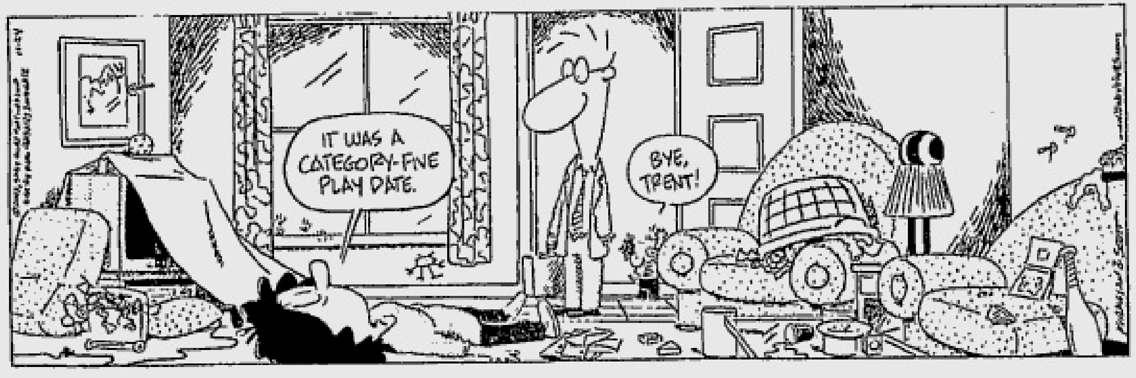

WOOHOO! 46 MILLION KILLS!
LET'S SEE YOU CHOP OFF THAT MANY HEADS!
WHAT'S THIS GAME CALLED AGAIN?
"THANKSGIVING TURKEY FARMER."

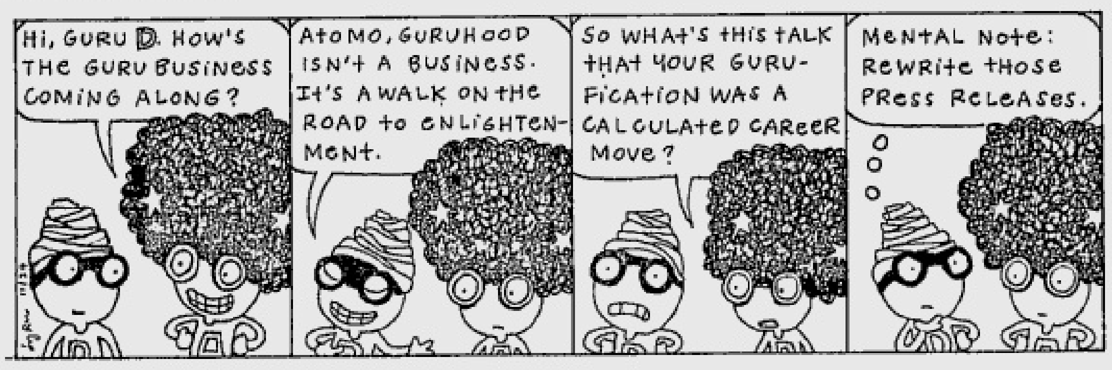
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN, WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR PARENTS WEAN US OFF OUR MILK BOTTLES?
WE HAVE TO START DRINKING COFFEE LIKE THEM

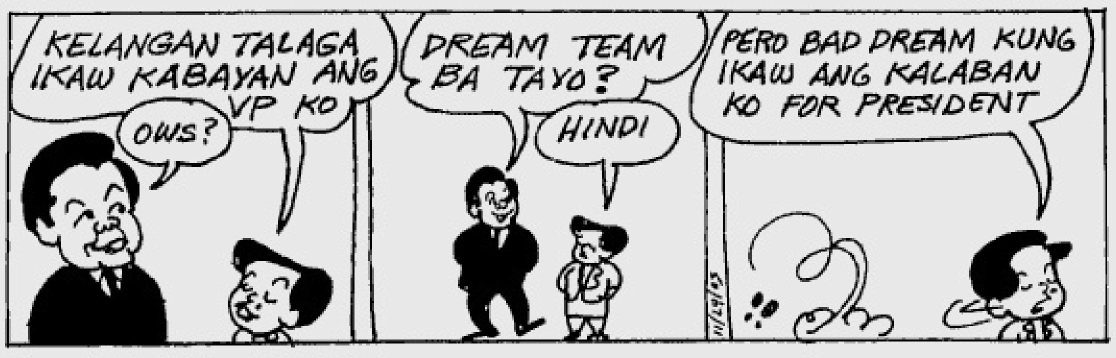
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


IT WAS A CATEGORY-FIVE PLAY DATE.
BYE, TRENT!

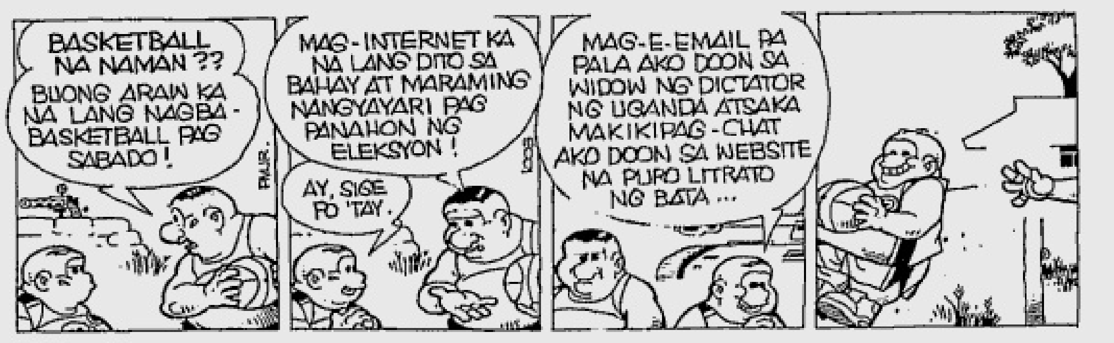
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hi, GURU D. How's THE GURU BUSINESS COMING ALONG?
ATOMO, GURUHOOD ISN'T A BUSINESS. IT'S A WALK ON THE ROAD TO ENLIGHTEN-MENT.
SO WHAT'S THIS TALK THAT YOUR GURU-FICATION WAS A CALCULATED CAREER MOVE?
MENTAL NOTE: REWRITE THOSE PRESS RELEASES.

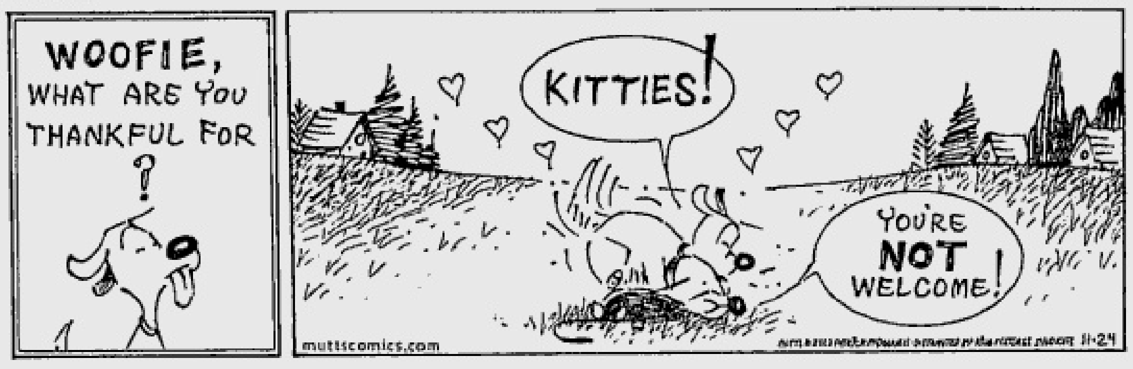
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN TALAGA IKAW KABAYAN ANG VP KO
OWS?
DREAM TEAM BA TAYO?
HINDI
PERO BAD DREAM KUNG IKAW ANG KALABAN KO FOR PRESIDENT

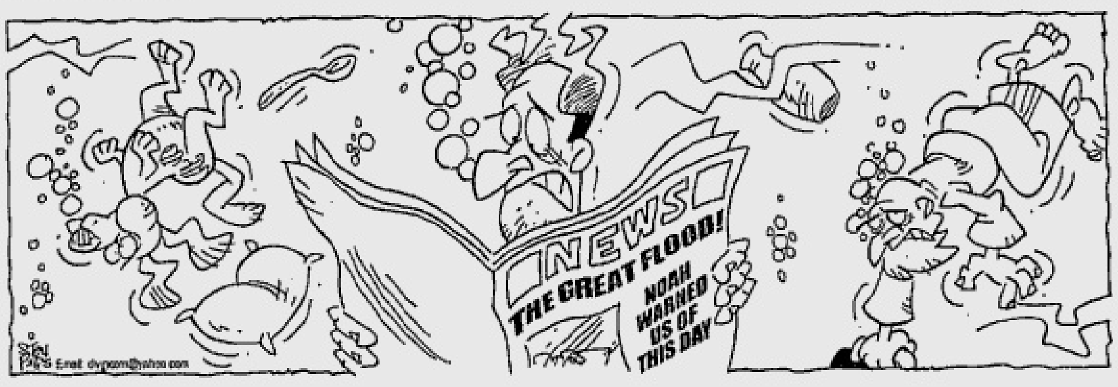
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BASKETBALL NA NAMAN ??
BUONG ARAW KA NA LANG NAGBA-BASKETBALL PAG SABADO!
MAG-INTERNET KA NA LANG DITO SA BAHAY AT MARAMING NANGYAYARI PAG PANAHON NG ELEKSYON!
AY, SIGE PO 'TAY.
MAG-E-EMAIL PA PALA AKO DOON SA WIDOW NG DICTATOR NG UGANDA ATSAKA MAKIKIPAG-CHAT AKO DOON SA WEBSITE NA PURO LITRATO NG BATA ...

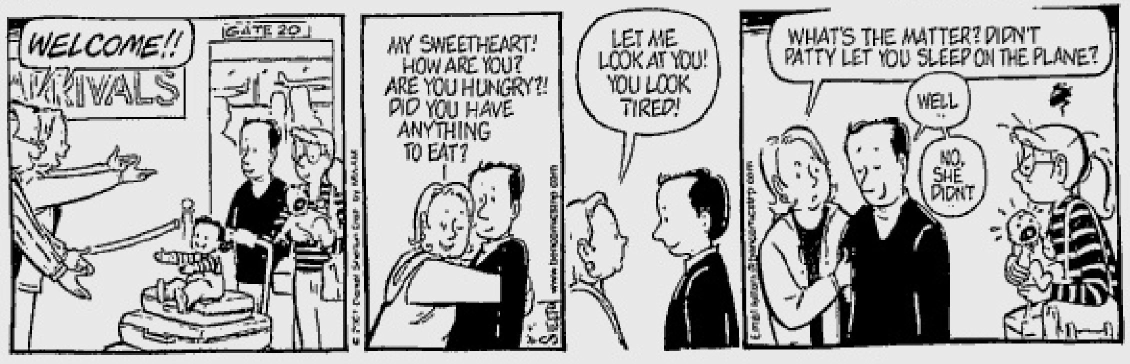
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOOFIE, WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR ?
KITTIES!
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME!
muttscomics.com
11-24

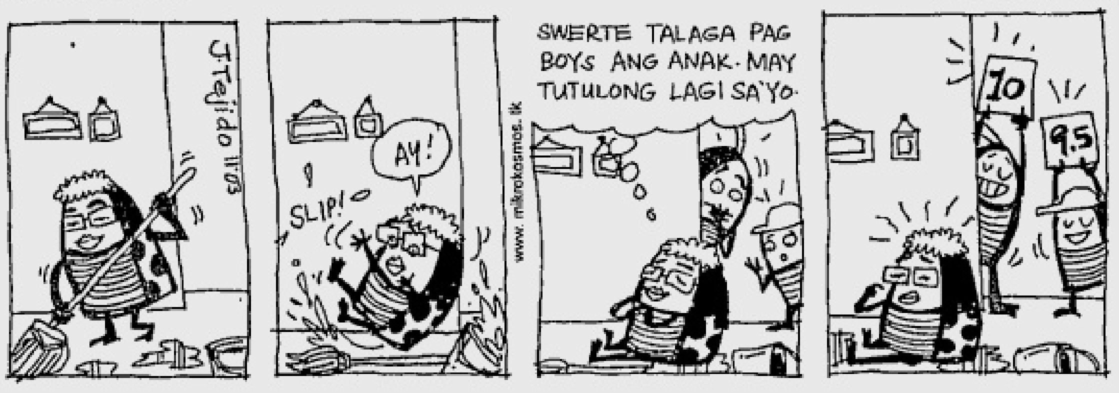
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NEWS
THE GREAT FLOOD!
NOAH WARNED US OF THIS DAY

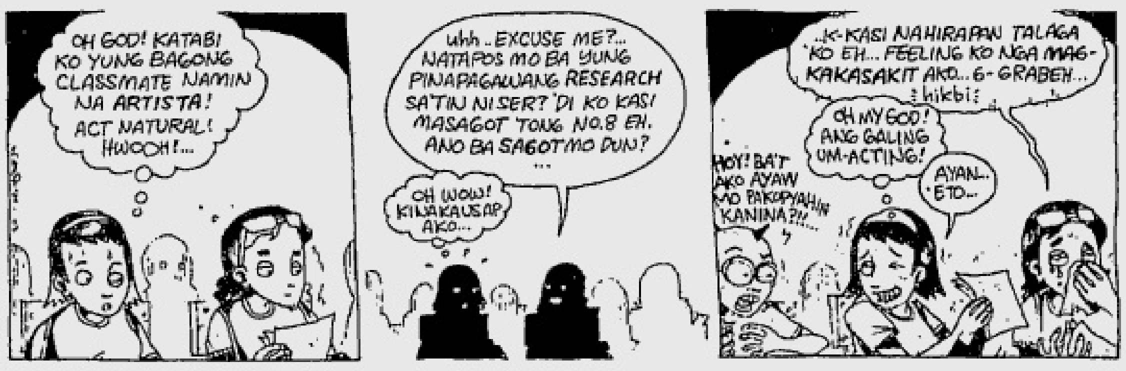
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WELCOME!!
GATE 20
ARRIVALS
MY SWEETHEART! HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU HUNGRY?! DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT?
LET ME LOOK AT YOU! YOU LOOK TIRED!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DIDN'T PATTY LET YOU SLEEP ON THE PLANE?
WELL
NO, SHE DIDN'T

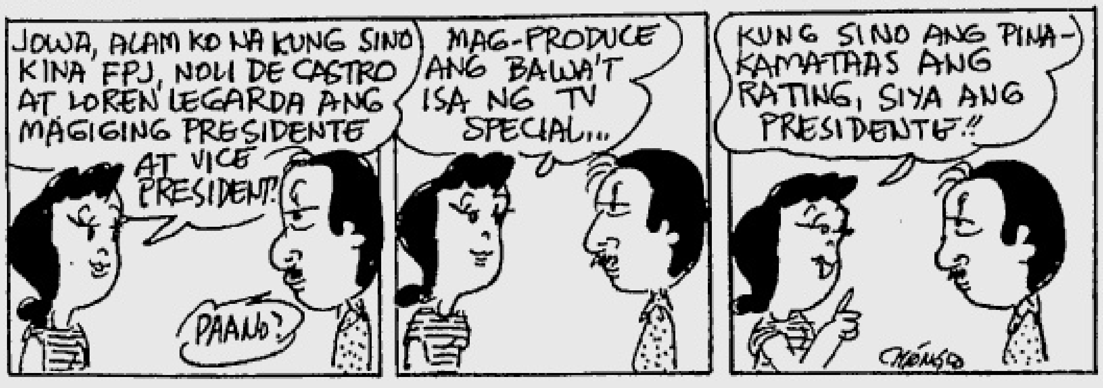
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


JTejido 11/03
AY!
SLIP!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
SWERTE TALAGA PAG BOYS ANG ANAK. MAY TUTULONG LAGI SA'YO.
10
9.5

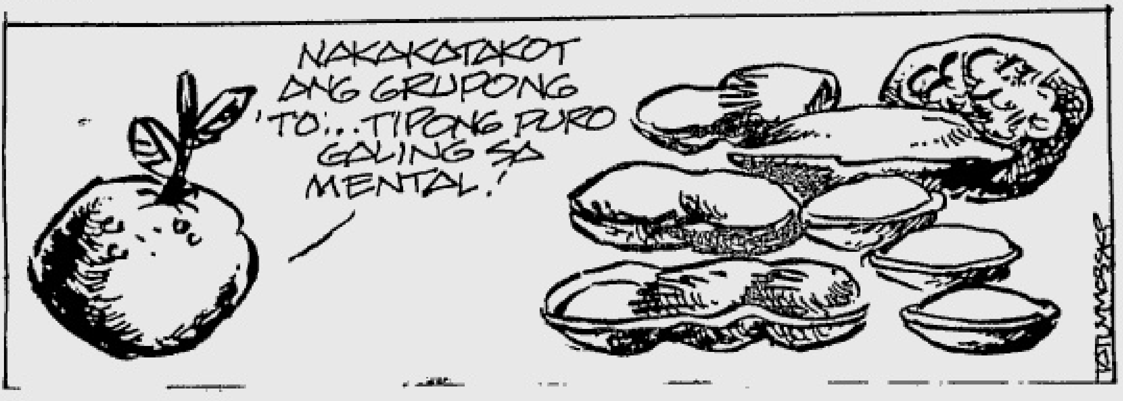
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


OH GOD! KATABI KO YUNG BAGONG CLASSMATE NAMIN NA ARTISTA! ACT NATURAL! HWOOH!...
uhh.. EXCUSE ME?... NATAPOS MO BA YUNG PINAPAGAWANG RESEARCH SA'TIN NI SER? 'DI KO KASI MASAGOT 'TONG NO.8 EH. ANO BA SAGOT MO DUN? ...
OH WOW! KINAKAUSAP AKO...
..K-KASI NAHIRAPAN TALAGA 'KO EH... FEELING KO NGA MAG-KAKASAKIT AKO... G-GRABEH... :hikbi:
OH MY GOD! ANG GALING UM-ACTING!
HOY! BA'T AKO AYAW MO PAKOPYAHIN KANINA?!!...
AYAN.. ETO..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, ALAM KO NA KUNG SINO KINA FPJ, NOLI DE CASTRO AT LOREN LEGARDA ANG MAGIGING PRESIDENTE AT VICE PRESIDENT!
PAANO?
MAG-PRODUCE ANG BAWA'T ISA NG TV SPECIAL...
KUNG SINO ANG PINA-KAMATAAS ANG RATING, SIYA ANG PRESIDENTE!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKAKATAKOT ANG GRUPONG 'TO!... TIPONG PURO GALING SA MENTAL!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have lots of energy to get things done, but you like to be appreciated for your efforts. You are lively and fun; you enjoy a good time with others. You value loyalty among your friends. You enjoy philosophical debates and vigorous discussions. The year ahead holds a major change for you, possibly as significant as around 1995.
Birthdate of: Colin Hanks, actor; Geraldine Fitzgerald, actress; Paul Tagliabue, football commissioner.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today, you're giving serious thought to important issues, like religion or the law. You're looking for some kind of philosophical truth that is meaningful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to ferret out secrets and do research today is phenomenal! Your mind has an intense, penetrating quality. Get to the bottom of whatever you're looking for.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Either you're tempted to improve a close friend or partner, or this person is intent on improving you. Either way, someone is trying to make someone over. Not good—this is meddling.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might find you're totally preoccupied with a particular idea or a point of view at work today. You just can't let it go. Stay mellow.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Romantic secrets could be discovered today. If someone is cheating on you, you could find out. It's as if you have X-ray vision. All will be revealed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Expect to encounter opposition from a family member today. Others might feel threatened by your words. Possibly, you feel this same way. Try to promote peace and harmony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day for any kind of research or investigative work. Your mind is attracted to mysteries right now. It wants answers to questions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Trust your ideas related to manufacturing and production today. You see new uses for existing products or materials. You also see new applications for traditional processes.

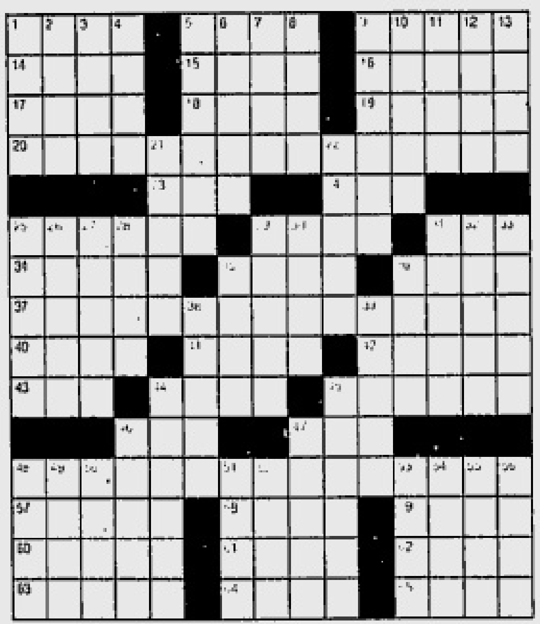
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): There's no question that you have the capacity to influence others today. Whatever you say, you say with strength, vigor and conviction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Investigative work and searching for hidden answers go well today. Without any effort on your part, you seem to be able to see beneath the subtext of everything. You see what's really going on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might attract someone very powerful to you today, who (to your chagrin) will get too bossy with you. You seem to be a magnet for powerful types today! The question is—can you handle it?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Expect to encounter powerful authority figures today (this could include the police). Investigative activities of all kinds take place now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

11/24/03

ACROSS
1 Slickly nonchalant
5 Tub time
9 Will Rogers prop
14 Took a taxi
15 Exile isle
16 Trojan War story
17 Woodwind member
18 Castle barrier
19 Rocky shelf
20 Greens
23 Came down with
24 Performance
25 Jam thickener
29 Sibilant jeer
31 Place to get PIN money
34 Relating to birds
35 Top-notch
36 Marco Polo destination
37 Greens
40 Barely manages
41 Strike by Zorro
42 Emus' kin
43 Embarrassed
44 Push or pony follower
45 Feinstein or Wiest
46 Hilo gift
47 Dads
48 Greens
57 Synagogue leader
58 Closet eater?
59 Good fortune
60 Man and Dogs
61 Skin opening
62 Suffer heartbreak
63 V-formation flyers
64 Move emotionally
65 Put in the hold

DOWN
1 Sailor's quaff
2 Gray wolf
3 Rocker Billy
4 __ up (strengthen)
5 Lament
6 In full hearing
7 Skiers' ride
8 Bowler and boater
9 Fragrant flowers
10 Heads-up
11 Viewpoint
12 Heroic story
13 Praiseful works
21 Dishes
22 Stand for Grandma Moses
25 Summoning device
26 Conjure up
27 Gave credit to
28 Old salts
29 Device for lifting
30 Move slowly
31 Blanched
32 Tennessee player
33 Billiards stroke
35 Way off
36 Turkish honorific
38 Thrash about
39 Cork populace
44 Cherry red
45 One of Santa's reindeer
46 Brain sections
47 Lab dish
48 Prissy one
49 Life of Riley
50 Up to the job
51 Diminutive demons
52 Open to question
53 Regrettably
54 Conduit
55 Canyon's reply
56 Distort

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	L	L	A	■	H	A	N	D	■	E	T	A	S
A	L	I	E	N	■	O	T	O	E	■	Y	O	L	K
M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	■	E	R	T	E
P	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	■	C	R	E	W
■	■	■	■	L	E	S	■	E	C	H	O	E	R	S
D	E	T	R	A	C	T	S	■	T	E	N	N	■	■
A	M	I	E	■	T	Y	P	E	S	E	T	T	E	R
W	I	M	P	S	■	L	A	X	■	D	A	I	L	Y
G	R	E	E	N	B	E	R	E	T	■	C	A	L	E
■	■	S	L	U	E	■	S	C	U	T	T	L	E	S
A	M	A	L	G	A	M	■	U	N	I	■	■	■	■
D	A	V	E	■	T	O	P	T	E	N	L	I	S	T
E	R	I	N	■	S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E	S
P	I	N	T	■	M	E	R	V	■	U	L	T	R	A
T	O	G	S	■	E	L	S	E	■	P	O	S	E	R

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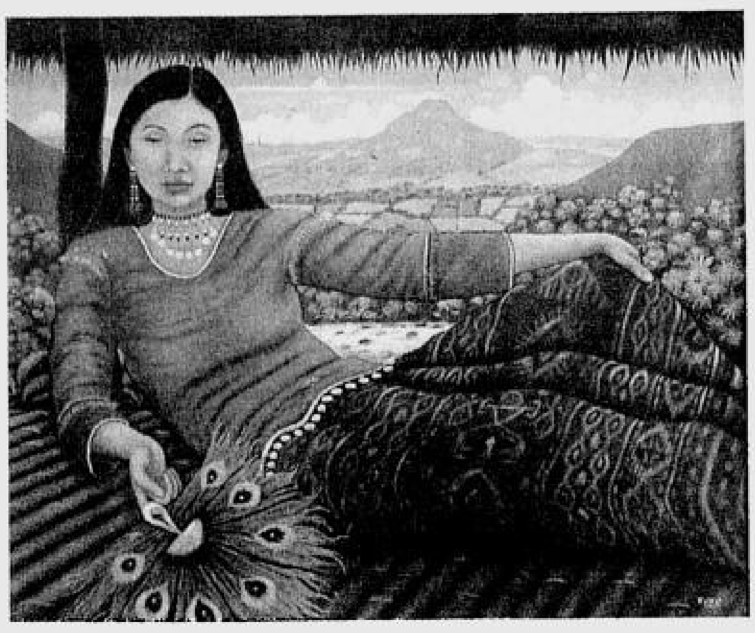
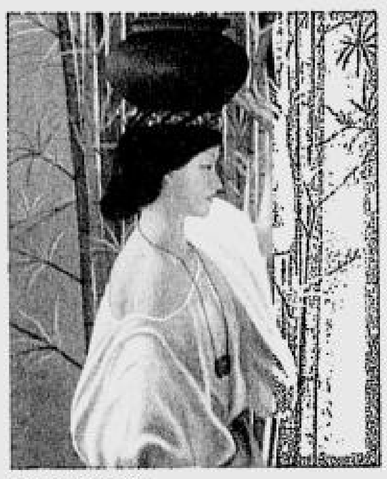
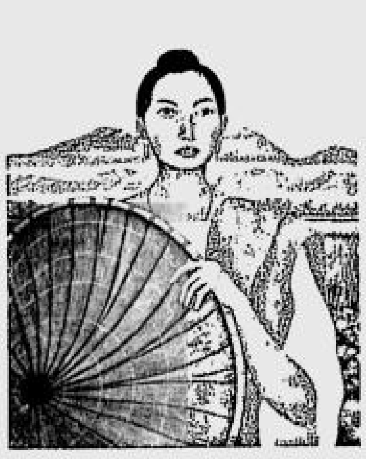


"MANDAYA Princess"



"PALAYOK"



"SALAKOT"

Rubio's art pays tribute to the race

NOTED artist Dominic Rubio unveils 40 new works in oil on canvas in "Kayumanggi," the artist's tribute to the Filipino race, at the Galerie Joaquin, which celebrates its first year.

The show highlights Rubio's interest in the Philippines of a time gone by. They are a peek at the people's romantic and traditional past, but the artist injects his own creative, personal and highly colorful interpretations.

A graduate of Commercial Arts at the University of Santo Tomas, Rubio has been painting for 16 years. A multi-awarded artist, he is a co-founder of the Guevarra Group of Artists.

Rubio has been known for his ethnic or Filipiniana images. Remaining true to his figurative influences, Rubio now adds abstract strokes and backgrounds to his artworks.

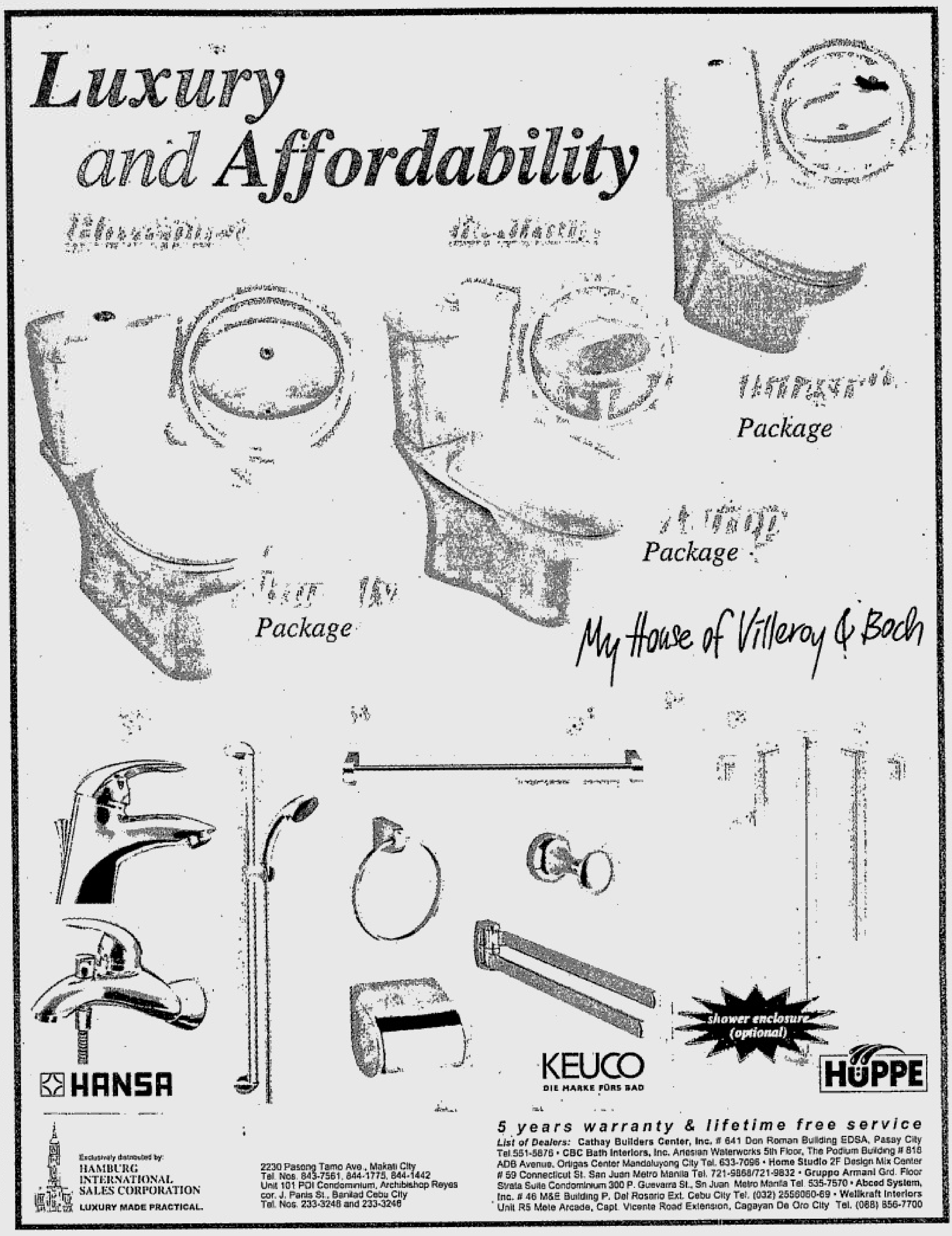
The common thread in all the artworks, however, is Rubio's undeniable love of country and its people and environment.

After graduation, Rubio worked for Lintas Advertising, a multinational advertising firm. He then worked as an art consultant for JV Ayala and consequently, for Pearl Farm.

There, he was captivated by the forests and mountains of Davao and the seas of Southern Mindanao where he was introduced to the "cathedral trees," so named for their round, bulbous, almost ethereal formations.

Rubio also traveled extensively, learning about the Mandaya and T'boli tribes and staying in various places in the Caraga region of Northern Mindanao and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. He lived with the Bilaan and the Badjaos.

Galerie Joaquin at 2/F, #371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253 or 7239418. Visit .www.galeriejoaquin.com.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ARTIST Soler was chosen to represent the country in the 11th International Biennale Print and Drawing Competition at the Taiwan Museum of Art in Taipei. His entry, "Stone Garden," is just one of over 1,000 works entered in the competition, where artists from all over the world are participating. Only 150 drawings have been selected for the exhibition, which will be held starting Jan. 17, 2004.

The 11th staging of the competition hopes to showcase printmaking and drawing as unique art forms, and highlight the direction of modern art in the 21st century with the way artists use their materials and technology in art-making.

The Republic of China's Council for Cultural Affairs initiated the event in 1983 to help support outstanding local talent and also promote a healthy artistic exchange between Taiwan and the international art community.

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Drop of hope for heritage battle

From page F1

versity.

Public heritage preservation initiatives have not prospered in Manila. They are hampered by politics and market-driven development schemes, which have led, for example, to the destruction of the Jai Alai building.

Also because of politicking and greed, the fate of Mehan Garden and the Arroceros Forest Park hangs in the balance.

Binondo in danger

The latest heritage issue is the ambiguous fate of the historic Cuarteles de Meisic in Binondo, which is said to be giving way for another commercial development.

After its restoration, Gota de Leche stands out in the visually polluted and singularly ugly University Belt. It has the only green front lawn on impossible S. H. Loyola Street (formerly Lepanto). The nurturing of fully matured trees and replanting of grass and plants renews oxygen and life to that choked part of the city.

STANDING behind a table donated to Gota de Leche by Doña Trinidad Rizal in 1917 are project contractor Felicisimo Consuelo, finishing and color consultant Liliane Rejante Manahan, landscape architect Ani de Leon, Gota de Leche directors Karen Tanada and Ana Leah Sarabia, conservation architect Augusto Villalon, Gota de Leche officers Lourdes Sarabia and Dr. Paulo Campos, Unesco Adviser for Culture Richard Engelhardt, lawyer Jorge Sarmiento and engineer Jainab Atillero.

The other achievement of Gota de Leche is an intangible one. It is to spark a renaissance. Since it has been restored, the heirs of its original board of directors have renewed their active participation. They have once again become involved in the Gota de Leche programs. Gota de Leche has regained its place as one of the worthy charities in Manila.

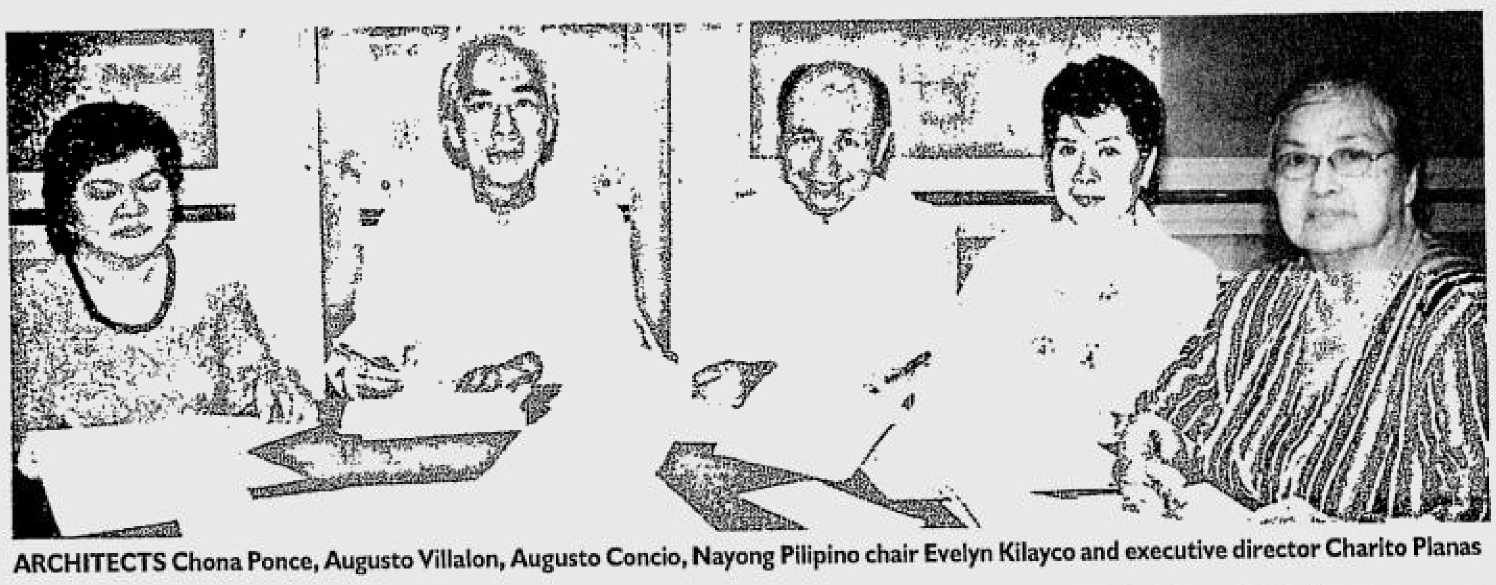
Restoring the building has brought back its pride of place, which in turn has brought new life to Gota de Leche. That is what reconnecting to heritage is all about.

It is an uphill battle, protecting our heritage. We have to stand on constant guard because we know that once heritage goes it can never be replaced. Gota de Leche shows us the benefits of maintaining our heritage.

The Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) has published a handsome desk calendar for 2004 that features archival photos and short historical data on 12 well-known Philippine churches. Proceeds will fund HCS projects for 2004. Call 5222497 and 5212239.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

Bagong Nayong Pilipino takes off



ARCHITECTS Chona Ponce, Augusto Villalon, Augusto Concio, Nayong Pilipino chair Evelyn Kilayco and executive director Charito Planas

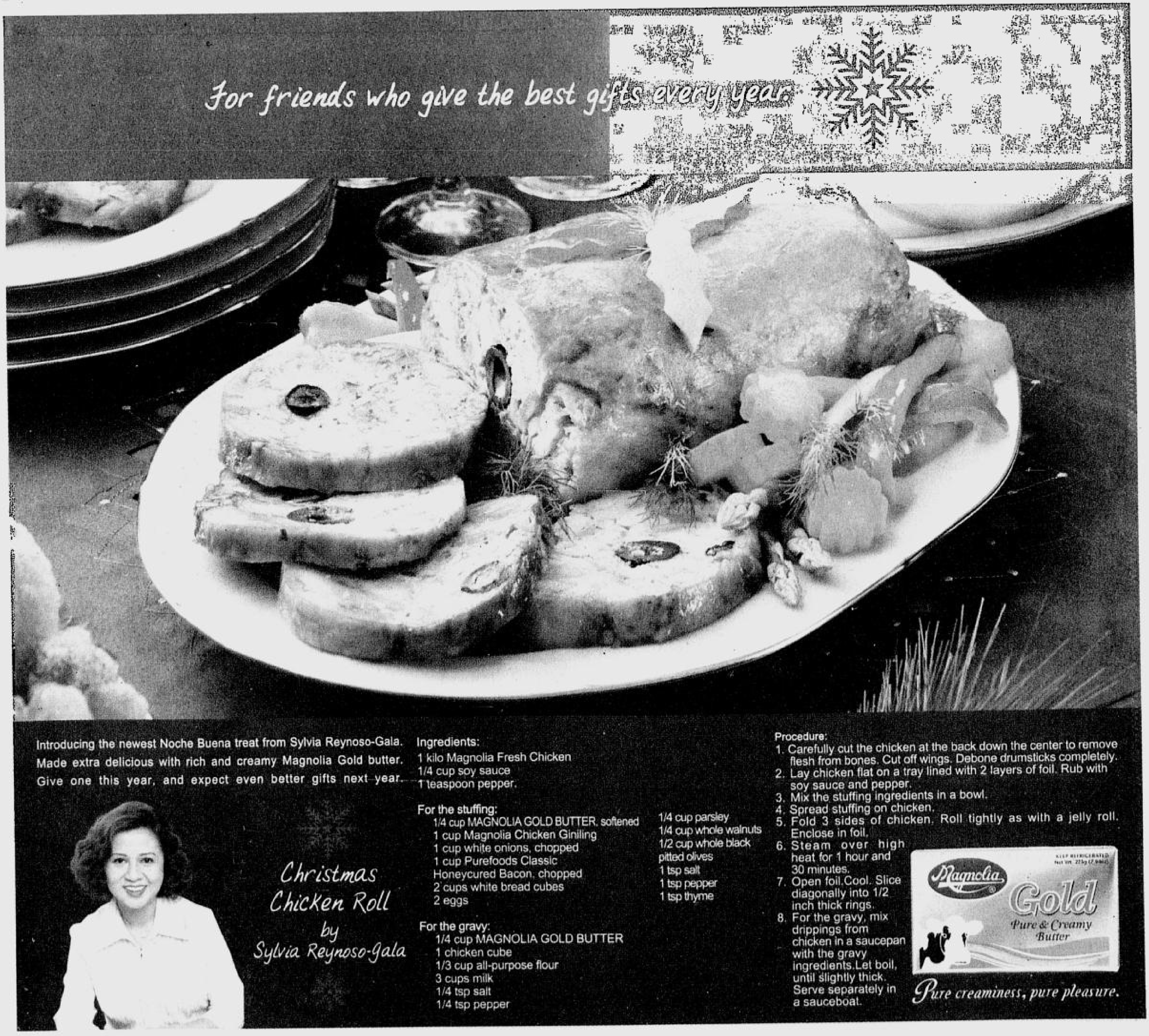
DEAN Augusto M. Concio of the College of Architecture of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) and internationally renowned conservator Augusto Villalon will prepare the master development design plans for the Bagong Nayong Pilipino at its new site at the Manila Bay Reclamation Area. The design will be based on the award-winning entry of UST students Jason Buensalido and Karen Cheung in the contest sponsored by the park.

The Bagong Nayong Pilipino will be put up in its new 15-ha site on the reclaimed area along Manila Bay. The theme park will showcase the cultural and natural riches of the nation's three major island groups.

The Nayong Pilipino board of trustees is composed of Evelyn Kilayko as chair, Charito Planas as executive director, and Emily Abrera, Joy Belmonte, Gen. (ret.) Adam Jimenez, Susan Calo-Medina, and Lourdes Velarde as members.

Aside from Concio and Villalon, the architectural and engineering team includes landscape architect Isabelle Concio and urban designers Dan Lichauco and Chona Ponce.

The Bagong Nayong Pilipino project is one of the eight priority programs of President Macapagal-Arroyo.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Christmas Chicken Roll
by
Sylvia Reynoso-Gala

Ingredients:
1 kilo Magnolia Fresh Chicken
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 teaspoon pepper.

For the stuffing:
1/4 cup MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER, softened
1 cup Magnolia Chicken Giniling
1 cup white onions, chopped
1 cup Purefoods Classic Honeycured Bacon, chopped
2 cups white bread cubes
2 eggs
1/4 cup parsley
1/4 cup whole walnuts
1/2 cup whole black pitted olives
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp thyme

For the gravy:
1/4 cup MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER
1 chicken cube
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
3 cups milk
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper

Procedure:
1. Carefully cut the chicken at the back down the center to remove flesh from bones. Cut off wings. Debone drumsticks completely.
2. Lay chicken flat on a tray lined with 2 layers of foil. Rub with soy sauce and pepper.
3. Mix the stuffing ingredients in a bowl.
4. Spread stuffing on chicken.
5. Fold 3 sides of chicken. Roll tightly as with a jelly roll. Enclose in foil.
6. Steam over high heat for 1 hour and 30 minutes.
7. Open foil.Cool. Slice diagonally into 1/2 inch thick rings.
8. For the gravy, mix drippings from chicken in a saucepan with the gravy ingredients.Let boil, until slightly thick. Serve separately in a sauceboat.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LifeStyle Books

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

'Enrique' comes full circle

Enrique
El Negro
Carla M. Pacis

"Enrique El Negro"
By Carla M. Pacis
Cacho Publishing House, Mandaluyong
2003, 130 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

In introducing "Enrique El Negro," fictionist Carla M. Pacis writes that she "discovered that writing historical fiction can be very tricky. The term historical fiction doesn't even sound right. How can one 'make up' something that happened a long time ago?"

In "Enrique," Pacis' fourth novel for young readers, she fictionalizes the historical sea voyage of explorer Ferdinand Magellan, as seen through the twists and turns in the 16th century life of a young narrator, a slave named Enrique.

Enrique, however, is no ordinary slave. As Pacis explains, historian Carlos Quirino theorized that Enrique was a native of the Philippines and was actually the first man to circumnavigate the globe. This is the very controversial premise of Pacis' novel, that Enrique accompanied Magellan (whose real Portuguese name is Ferñao de Magalhães) back here, to his archipelago of birth. With the help of references from Quirino, Magalhães' chronicler Antonio

'ENRIQUE'/ G2

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9 (PM) KIKIAM, CHICKEN & PRAWNS ON HOT SALAD, FRESH FRUIT PUDDING
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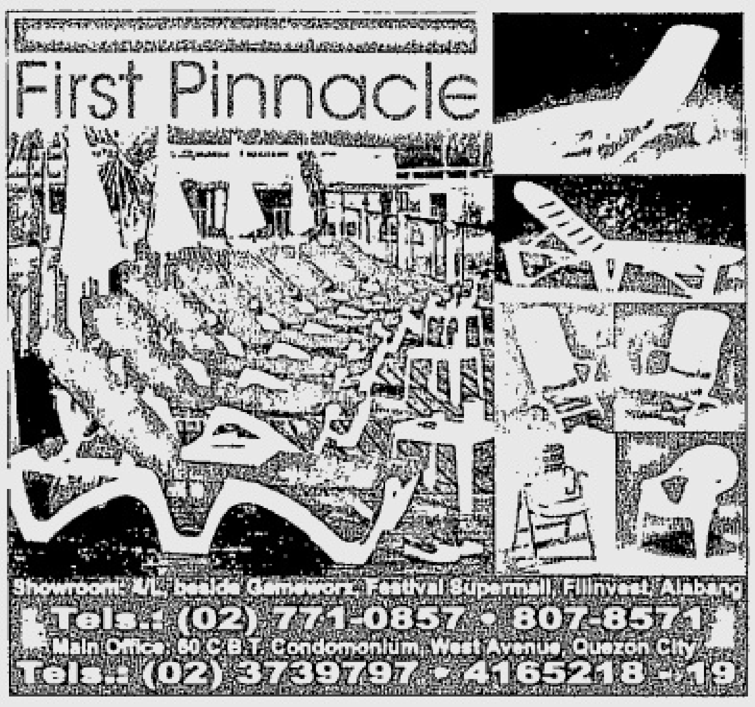
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Coffee with Malang.
Tea with Baldemor.
CENTURY ART

Indulge your senses at the Art Plaza, the new haven for artists and art connoisseurs. It showcases a wide range of artworks and collectibles, and is a venue for art-inspired events like poetry readings, mini classical concerts, exhibits and more. Spend time with the finer things in life. Come to the Art Plaza at Shangri-La, where life is truly a thrill.

Artistree – Asia Art Gallery – Gallery 828 – The Gallery by Arts of Asia – Circa – Art Circle – Art Venue – Century – Mocha Blends

*the Malang painting has been resized in the photo

Art Plaza at the Shangri-La Plaza
Life's a thrill

Traveling the right path with Gary Zukav

By Dulce Festin-Baybay
Contributor

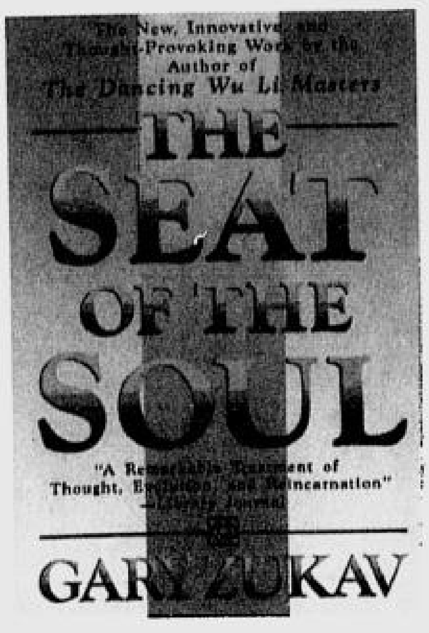
HE is definitely not a priest and he would vehemently deny that he is a guru.

But like a priest, guru or any religious leader, Gary Zukav has influenced the spiritual and emotional lives of millions who have read his books and watched him in syndicated shows like "Oprah." One very much affected reader is child welfare, environmentalist and natural healing advocate Gina Lopez, whose life these past three years has been influenced by Zukav's books.

"The book captivated me so much so I ended up attending a five-day retreat in California and enrolling in a three-year-course called 'Creating Authentic Power.' The path was so diametrically different from the path I had been in before—perhaps this is why I was so attracted. And probably even more importantly why going this route was an important part of my healing."

The books Gina is referring to are: "The Seat of the Soul," "Soul Stories," and now, "The Heart of the Soul, Emotional Awareness" by Zukav and his spiritual partner Linda Francis (Simon & Schuster Source). Gary's books have sold millions of copies and are published in 16 languages.

AUTHOR OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER THE SEAT OF THE SOUL
GARY ZUKAV
SOUL STORIES


The New, Innovative, and Thought-Provoking Work by the Author of The Dancing Wu Li Masters
THE SEAT OF THE SOUL
"A Remarkable Treatment of Thought, Evolution, and Reincarnation"
GARY ZUKAV

For 20 years, Gina was a missionary in the Ananda Marga. "We had only two to three sets of clothes, slept on the floor, led a very austere lifestyle. I lived in Africa for 11 years. No contact with 'wordly family' was allowed. The group is celibate—and has very strict rules regarding interaction with the opposite sex. Emotions and feelings are suppressed. The most important aspect of life is the ideology. Everything should be surrendered to the guru and his teachings—whatever one feels is of no consequence. There are 131 rules, more than 1000 Sanskrit phrases to memorize. The list goes on."

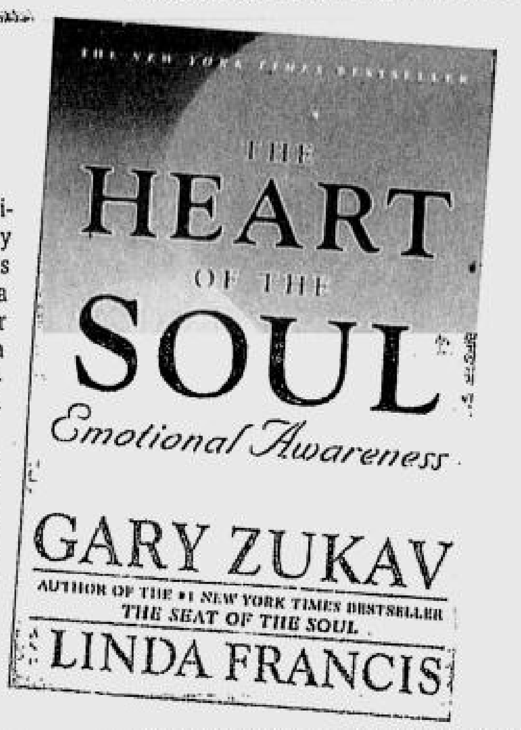
Gina came home in the '90s and after five years, she cut ties with the organization. "The final cut came when daddy (Eugenio Lopez, Jr.) died and it's like I must move on. I went into Zen meditation—because this is what Daddy was doing in the last 15 years of his life." Then a friend gave Gina Zukav's book and her life was never the same again after taking in a combination of profound psychological insight and deep spirituality of Gary's teachings.

In his latest book described as a life-changing work, the Harvard graduate and former U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) officer with Vietnam service, writes that "the longest journey that you will make in your life is from your head to your heart." He adds that for all of us, this is the unending journey toward spiritual growth—toward wholeness, wisdom and compassion—and the healing that will allow us to achieve our fullest potential.

Gary and Linda do not discount the violence and destruction that pervade our world, but they recognize a new, emerging consciousness that has the power to transform it, as it has transformed Gina.

Says Gina: "The striking contrast with my previous life is that in this path, emotions and feelings have a very important role. Gary says they are the language of the soul. It is by learning how to be aware of one's feelings, that one can heal. For feelings are the pointers towards the path one should take. For example, I learned that my anger was an offshoot of fear so I had to learn how to feel fears…deeply…totally…and then choose; do I want to go this or do I want to go to the route of my higher self? I had to first experience my fears and go from there. I had to face my fears and then challenge them. So the path, as the book describes it, works."

Zukav's booksare available at National Book Store and Powerbooks.


THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
THE HEART OF THE SOUL
Emotional Awareness
GARY ZUKAV
AUTHOR OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER THE SEAT OF THE SOUL
LINDA FRANCIS

JOSE P. RIZAL
The Monkey and the Turtle
A PHILIPPINE FOLK TALE
TAHANAN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS MANILA

Rizal's picture book for kids relaunched in full color

TAHANAN Books for Young Readers, in cooperation with Power Books and National Book Store, will launch a full-color picture book featuring the original drawings and words of José P. Rizal's folk tale "The Monkey and the Turtle" on Nov. 25, at 5 p.m. at Power Books, Greenbelt 2, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Over 30 plates of Rizal's drawings have been digitally recreated in full color by the artist-sister team of Auri Asuncion Yambeo and Grace Asuncion.

The book includes a foreword by National Historical Institute chair Ambeth R. Ocampo and an introduction by Mara Pardo De Tavera, whose family preserved Rizal's original sketches for the story for many years.

The book launch will include a lively narration of the book by award-winning storyteller Melody Remorca and an art activity for children facilitated by Kids at Art.

Rizal's retelling of this popular Asian folk tale began as a series of drawings he made in a guest book owned by the family of Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, whom Rizal visited when he lived in Europe.

While Rizal's original pencil sketches have been color-enhanced for the benefit of today's readers, purists will be heartened to know that Tahanan Books has retained the national hero's English text in its original form.

Regarded by many as the first recorded attempt by a Filipino to do a picture book for children, Tahanan's digitally mastered "The Monkey and the Turtle" is bound to cause a stir more than a century later.

Tahanan Books for Young Readers' first edition of "The Monkey and the Turtle" will be available in hardcover at all Power Books and National Book Store outlets in time for the National Heroes Day.

Call 8955023 or 36, or e-mail arfie_koc@lycos.com

Stamps present Pinoy Christmas images

HALLMARK and the Philippine Postal Corporation (Philpost) present the images of Christmas in the Philippines in its 2003 series of Christmas stamps.

The stamps feature artwork previously done by artist and Hallmark creative officer Jespeliño for previous Hallmark for L.i.f.e. collections, and a new one by Hallmark senior artist Mamerto Yñigo.

Prevalent in the design themes are homegrown traditions, experiences and figures like the jeepney, which is immortalized in Jespeliño's "Karoling sa Jeepney," originally contributed by the artist to the 1998 series.

A tradition for many Filipino kids is visiting their godparents on Christmas day to ask for blessings, thus the gesture of "*mano po*," which is beautifully rendered in "Mano Po Ninong II," also by Jespeliño.

"Himig at Kulay ng Pasko," another work by the artist, used to be the cover of Hallmark for L.i.f.e.'s brochure in 1998. It was reprinted as a Christmas card in the 1999 collection due to its popularity with clients and is now available in stamps.

Yñigo's "Noche Buena," on the other hand, was especially designed for Philpost's 2003 Christmas Commemorative Stamps.

The official first-day cover of the Christmas stamps series features "Simbang Gabi," also by Jespeliño. This artwork was included in the 1998 card collection and was one of the best sellers that year.

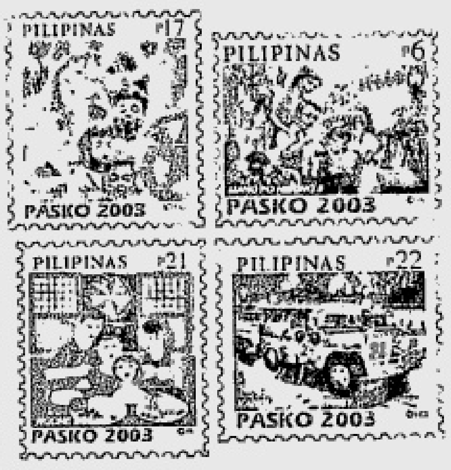
Yñigo joined Hallmark's creative department in 1997 after graduating with a Fine Arts degree major in Advertising from the University of Santo Tomas. While in college, he placed second in a cartoon drawing contest sponsored by the Bank of America. He was also among the grand finalists in Caltex-DOST's Science Art Competition.

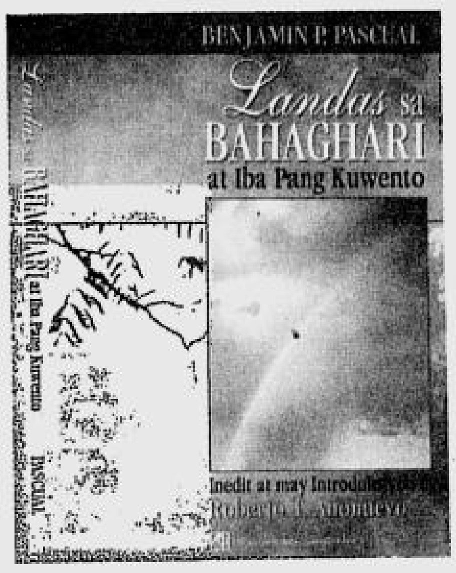
Jespeliño, on the other hand, graduated cum laude from Feati University with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in 1981. He taught Fine Arts and Color Theory at his alma mater before joining Hallmark.

Hallmark for L.i.f.e. was first launched eight years ago by Filstar Distributors Corporation and the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (L.i.f.e.). It raises funds through its special line of greeting cards and stamps to provide sustained medical treatment of poor children with leukemia.

Since then, it has treated hundreds of child patients through chemotherapy, radiation and gene therapy, and oral and intravenous medicines, among others.

The stamps are available in P6 to P22 denominations at all post offices nationwide.





New Tagalog fiction

THE ATENEO Press recently released two short story collections by veteran fictionists Benjamin Pascual and Rosario de Guzman-Lingat.

"Landas sa Bahaghari at iba pang Kuwento" (236 pages) contains 21 stories by Benjamin Pascual and includes an insightful introduction into the writer's life by multi-awarded poet Roberto Añonuevo.

"Sa Bukang Liwayway ng Isang Kalayaan at iba pang Kuwento" (232 pages) contains 17 stories by Rosario de Guzman-Lingat, selected by literary critic Soledad S. Reyes, who also writes about the author's colorful life and career in the introduction.

Both collections invite contemporary readers to enjoy the pleasures of straightforward but skillful storytelling that both Pascual and Lingat are known for.

The books are available at the Ateneo Press bookshop (4265984), Popular (3722162), Solidaridad (5230870), Power Books (8444455) and National Book Store branches.

Author of the month is also top-class mountaineer

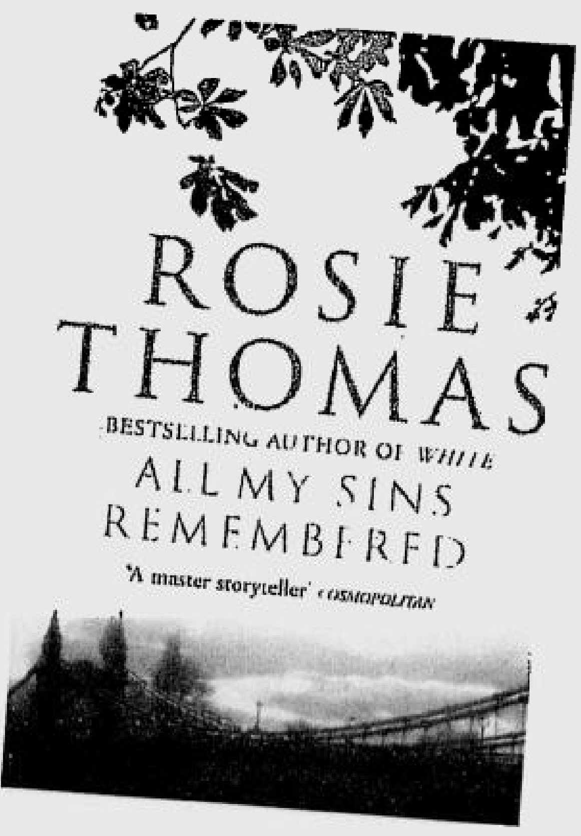
POWER Books Specialty Store presents Rosie Thomas, a prolific writer for magazines and newspapers in addition to her fiction.

She is the author of "Bad Girls, Good Women;" "All my Sins Remembered;" "Other People's Marriages;" "White;" "Strangers;" "Follies;" "A Woman of our Times;" "If my Father Loved Me" and "A Simple Life."

Always entertaining, Thomas' books are set in many exotic locations. When not writing, she spends her time travelling and mountaineering.

In 1997, she competed in the Peking to Paris Motor Rally, and has climbed Mont Blanc and Everest. She has also travelled to the Antarc tic.

Call 8444455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph


ROSIE THOMAS
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF WHITE
ALL MY SINS REMEMBERED
'A master storyteller' COSMOPOLITAN

'Enrique' comes full circle

From page G1

Pigafetta, and William Henry Scott, Pacis recreates the history of this extraordinary traveler, in effect carving an adventure out of this debated theory.

In "Enrique," the boy who will eventually circle the world is an *indio* named Yabon who, together with his family, flees his homeland to escape the wrath of a vengeful *datu*. Once out at sea, however, Yabon's family dies as a result of a pirate attack and Yabon survives only to fall into the hands of brutal slave traders. Then, Yabon falls into the hands of fate. Put on the market in Malaka, Yabon is purchased by a Portuguese captain. Enter Magalhães.

What follows is a fascinating voyage of discovery and hardship for Yabon, now called Enrique. When the Portuguese royals refuse to sponsor Magalhães' proposed trip to the Spice Islands, a bitter Magalhães, with his family and Enrique in tow, moves to Spain where he succeeds in convincing the Spanish monarchs to back his venture. And though Enrique finds many wondrous things in the Iberian peninsula, he also finds pain, as Magalhães' wife Beatriz and son Rodrigo treat him badly.

The trip to the Spice Islands is a nightmare. Pacis tells of these difficulties in stark detail. Enrique is seen observing the people around him, the diverse members of Magalhães' crew. Yet for all the explorer's vaunted navigational prowess, he doesn't quite wind up in the Spice Islands. Instead, Enrique discovers he has returned home. Enrique soon becomes the translator for the Spanish sailors.

Pacis tells of the meetings between Magalhães and Rajah Humabon. Enrique is a witness to the alliance between the strangers and the natives, even showing some confusion regarding the nature of such actions as the baptism. Yet not all the *datus* bend to Magalhães' whims. Lapu Lapu, fierce *datu* of Maktan, defies the Portuguese explorer and, once hostilities are joined, every Filipino child knows how it ends. This not exactly the Lapu Lapu people remember from those retired one-centavo coins, either.

Pacis zooms in on this conflict and the convenient alliances built that led to it, as well as chronicling the fallout from it. "Enrique" presents a tale of intrigue, manipulation, betrayal and folly. Readers just might be surprised that the events surrounding the Battle of Maktan don't quite go the way they expect it to. It is a gripping, sweeping story of conflicting emotions and discoveries. Pacis gives us her own fictionalized take on what happens to the boy named Enrique, a person now trapped between the Old and the New Worlds, caught between homes and loyalties.

Rich look

"Enrique" presents a rich look into the world of the 16th century, of life in Europe and, more insightfully, into life here among the datus. From the rituals to the clothes, Pacis guides readers through a remarkably full tour of our past, at least as much as the book's compact size would allow.

Pacis' prose is smooth and accessible, bringing the distant past to startling life. Enrique makes for a very compelling protagonist, as his alert yet sometimes fearful and awe-struck observations often mirror the reader's as well. Most touching is Pacis' portrayal of Enrique's bond with such characters as Pigafetta, who survives the battle, and of course, central to this tale, the father-and-son relationship with Magalhães, a tragic and memorable bond. Further, Enrique's journey makes for an effective metaphor for the puzzle of being Filipino, of being shuttled back and forth between two worlds, of belonging and of not belonging, of cooperating and of being conquered.

"Enrique's" premise also trigger discussions in classrooms. Helping facilitate that aspect are the intricate illustrations by Mel Silvestre and the reading guide at the back of the book.

"Enrique" has some graphic sequences that involve the risks of traveling via galleon as well as descriptions of disease and combat. While these are necessary for the story and are tastefully done, their graphic nature makes "Enrique" somewhat difficult for readers younger than the intermediate and high school readers it is intended for.

All in all, "Enrique El Negro" is an inventive fictional re-engineering of our history, regardless of whether you agree with the premise. Pacis dares to tell her own version of the story, bolstered by exhaustive research, Quirino's provocative idea, Pacis' storytelling prowess and a bit of chutzpah.

"Very little has been written about Enrique," Carla Pacis writes. "There are those who think he didn't even exist. Others are convinced that he was not from the Philippines but from Malacca and that the language he spoke and understood was a trade language that was commonly spoken throughout the neighboring islands. I have chosen to believe that Enrique was Filipino—and why not?"

Available in leading bookstores.

Book on post-midlife joys launched

ANVIL Publishing recently launched "Life on the Cusp," an anthology by Mert Loinaz and Rita Ledesma about being fifty-something and finally "grown up."

Held on Oct. 6 at the Manila Polo Club, the event gathered many men and women larger than midlife and glad to be over it.

The list of 24 contributors includes Jaime Zobel, Jim Paredes, Randy David, Bambi Harper, Augusto Villalon, Sylvia Mayuga, Felice Sta. Maria, Linda Panlilio, Josie Lichauco, Barbara Gonzalez and Pinky Valdés, among others.

As Harper notes in in her essay: "Only very essential things are worth bothering with by the time you hit your 50s. A good book, friends who stood by you through the years, the feel of silk, a child's wet sticky kiss on your cheek... Growing old is synonymous, I believe, with growing up, and no, it's not for the faint-hearted."

Copies of the book are now available at PowerBooks and National Book Store. Call 6375692 or 6373621.

SYLVIA Mayuga with BenCab

JOSIE Lichauco (seated, center)

RANDY David

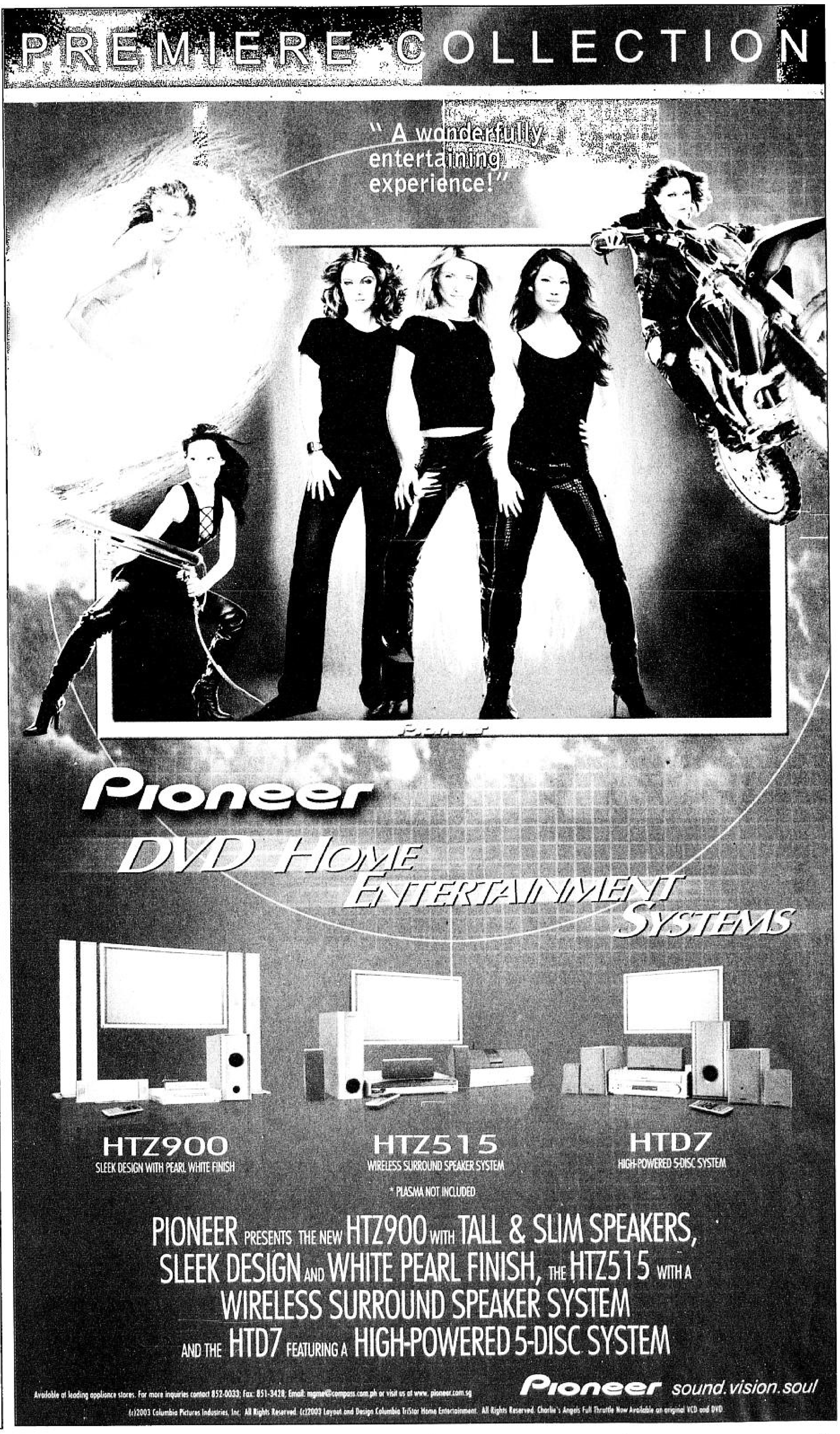
RITA Ledesma (seated)

JOY Virata (seated)

Deus holds tribal antique sale

GALLERY Deus will hold "Guardians and Ancestors," an exhibit-sale, on Nov. 29. The show highlights authentic, museum-quality samples of the Ifugao rice god, Bulol, from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries. Other objects in the show are ritual and utilitarian objects from the Cordilleras such as bowls, baskets, ritual boxes, textile and adornment. Below is a pair of male and female Bulol from the Kiangan area. All objects were selected by collector Floy Quintos.

Deus, which specializes in Philippine colonial and tribal art, is at 1413 A. Mabini, near the corner of Santa Monica St., Manila. Call 5245053.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EDUCATION REVOLUTION

One-on-one with the country's head teacher

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

DEPED Adopt-A-School Program director Au Felizardo

ILOILO City Schools division superintendent Ida Endonila

FWWPP board chair Eggie Apostol (center) and president Dr. Maria "Butchie" Ayuyao make their progress report to Secretary De Jesus.

EIGHTY-THREE schools have been adopted by their respective communities since the Education Revolution was launched late last year.

40,917 more schools to go.

Dr. Maria "Butchie" Lim-Ayuyao and Eggie Apostol, Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) president and board chair, respectively, reported this to Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus at a meeting held last week.

They also said that the Maybangcal Elementary School in Morong, Rizal, and the Lerma Elementary School in Caloocan City have conducted pilot sessions of the School Empowerment skills-building modules.

Chinit Rufino, Mentoring the Mentors program director, likewise reported to Secretary De Jesus that her program has been successfully implemented for master teachers and principals in all Iloilo City public schools.

Ms Rufino added that she has also conducted Mentoring the Mentors facilitators training sessions for the Philippine Association for Teacher Education, with very encouraging results.

Iloilo City Schools division superintendent Ida Endonila showed Secretary De Jesus the marked positive changes her principals and teachers exhibited just three months after having undergone the five-day Mentoring the Mentors sessions.

Supt. Endonila said her teachers have become more aware of the vital role they play in developing positive civic values in our youth. Despite the many problems Iloilo City public-school teachers face every day, they now seem to be more fired up, something we have not seen for a long time, Endonila said.

Secretary De Jesus thanked the FWWPP for its continuing effort to help uplift the state of public education today. He, in turn, said that the DepEd has gone back to basics in its unrelenting drive to bring quality education to the masses.

"We also have the 3Rs to guide us," De Jesus said. He meant that their three-pronged development strategy is to raise the academic standards, reduce the resource gaps and re-engineer their systems and structures.

He added that DepEd's signature programs are the Strong Republic schools, the annual Brigada Eskwela National Schools Maintenance Week, and bringing Madrasah education into the mainstream.

When it comes to education, 'leave no one behind,' says Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus

Common vision

The FWWPP's Education Revolution and DepEd share a common vision, so there should be synergy in our efforts, De Jesus said. He called on the FWWPP to help focus public attention and generate popular support for major system changes that the DepEd has begun to make.

For instance, the DepEd recently issued Department Order No. 70-2003, which revised the grading system by doing away with the transmutation table. The DepEd order says the grading system should "reflect consistency between the true level and degree of mastery of competencies by students in each subject area."

Then, DepEd introduced a new measure called "bridging year," which adds a fifth high-school year for students based on the results of their diagnostic/achievement tests given at the end of Grade 6.

A number of parents, and some teachers, reacted negatively to these measures, particularly to DepEd Order 70-2003. They feared that their children would turn in much lower grades, or even fail their subjects.

But Sec. De Jesus pointed out that there should be no cause for apprehension, because DepEd has also taken steps to retool the test construction system.

In doing away with the transmutation system, the test results we get will give us a more accurate assessment on how pupils and students are actually doing in school, he explained.

More importantly, it gives us a clearer idea on what measures we need to undertake and in which areas in our goal to raise academic standards. As you can see, we are really doing everything we can to upgrade the education system, Sec. de Jesus added.

The Philippines is the only country in the region with a 10-year education system. If or when the "Bridging Year" measure becomes permanent, we will be at par with Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, which all have an 11-year education system. But we'll still be behind Thailand, which has 12.

The secretary also challenged the FWWPP to push the Education Revolution as far and as widely as possible.

"Quality education is for everyone. Leave no one behind," he said.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

Heny Sison

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES: This 26-day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking, as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurant. Classes begin on **January 15- March 13, 2004.** Classes are held every **Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays** from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20 - day hands-on cooking series is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking and baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Classes begin on January 27 - March 31, 2004. Classes are held every Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sign up now to secure your spots for the class fills up quickly. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit. For more information call **7265316** and **4127792** and ask for Lirio or Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Dec. 1 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) TEMPTING CHOCOLATE DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Food Stylist Blue Ribbon-graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. P1,500 * Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Souffle, Chocolate Bread Pudding, Chocolate Cremé Brulee, Swiss Chocolate Fondue & 3rd Avenue Fudge Cookies

Dec. 1 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) LAURIAT SAMPLER by: Chef Katherine Sion, Restaurateur (Ding Hao Restaurant & Fat Kat) caterer & an expert in Chinese Cuisine. P1,500 Beancurd w/ Eight Treasure Soup, Sliced Beef w/ Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Fried Shrimp w/ Ham on Toast, Steamed Lapu-Lapu with Soy Sauce, Fried Rice w/ assorted Meats and Almond w/ Lychees.

Dec. 2 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS, by: Heny Sison, P1,500 * Butter Cake w/ Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake w/ Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake w/ No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake w/ Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake w/ Whipped Cream Icing

Dec. 2 (Tuesday) 2:30- 5:30 p.m. (Classroom A) BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars w/ Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies w/ Caramel Center and Butterscotch Bars

Dec. 3 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m -4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) EASY NO-BAKE DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P1,500 *Frozen Coffee Cream Roll, Chocolate Bavarian Mousse, Floating Island, Mango Ice Box Cake, Buko-Pandan Salad & Butterscotch Banana Cream Pie

Dec. 3 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m -12:30 p.m. (Classroom B) COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, Owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy. P1,500 *If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making.

Dec. 3 (Wednesday) 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Classroom B) BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P1,700 *Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti & Baked Seafood Pasta

Dec. 4 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) PAMASKONG HANDOG by: Chef Carol Acosta, Food Consultant to multinational food companies and restaurants. P1,500 * Corn Maja w/ Cream, Sinukmani, Instant Puto Pandan w/ Red Egg, Espasol, Bibingka Royale, Cassava Bibingka w/ Ube Macapuno de Leche & Mazapan de Pili

Dec. 4 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Classroom B) THAI COOKING WORKSHOP by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P2,000 Learn popular Thai dishes in this 1 day hands-on workshop. Recipes: Crispy Catfish Salad w/ Mango, Chicken Pandan, Fish Fillet w/ Chili Garlic Sauce, Phad Thai, Tom Yang Gung & Thai Halo-Halo.

Dec. 5 (Friday) 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Classroom A) CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison P1,500 *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar.

Dec. 5 (Friday) 2:00-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison P1,500 *Food for the Gods, Camela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bars & Macadamia Cookies

Dec. 5 (Friday) 1:00 -5:00 p.m. (Classroom B) KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Young Hee Kim Park, Owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila. P1,700 *Beef Bulgogi, (tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Miyuk Guk (Soup: Seaweed, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jhim (Braised Short Ribs Stew)

Dec. 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurant all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy P2,500 *There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta & the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than what you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta e Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti di Mare. Demo w/ student participation.

Dec. 6 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Classroom B) PAELLAS Y MAS (Paellas & More) by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of RASTRO Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Rockwell. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club. P 2,500 *Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella Mar y Montana, Paella Catalana (Sin Tropezones), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Full participation.

Dec. 8 (Monday) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) SECRETS NO MORE! (My most requested recipes) by: Heny Sison, P 3,000 *Decadent Chocolate Cake w/ Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sansrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake

Dec. 8 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Classroom B) FLAVORS OF SINGAPORE: WORKSHOP by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P2,000 Recipes: Popiah, Black Pepper Crab, Hainanese Chicken Rice, Spicy Kangkong & Black Glutinous Rice Pudding

Dec. 9 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison, P1,700 *French Apple Pie w/ Streusel Topping & Crème Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie w/ Whipped Cream Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake & White Chocolate Cheesecake

Dec. 9-11 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) TECHNIQUES OF BAKING by: Chef Jill Sandique, P8,000 This intensive three day hands-on workshop is for the passionate home baker who may want to venture into the world of professional baking. Students can expect to master the techniques of cutting in, rolling out, folding in & many more. Recipes included in the class are an assortment of savory pies & pastries, cakes & breads & other luscious desserts. Class limited to 20. Full Participation.

Dec. 10 (Wednesday) 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) SALADS & SALAD DRESSINGS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P 1,500 Dressings: Classic Mayonnaise, Roasted Garlic Mayonnaise, Pesto Vinaigrette, Ginger & Coriander Dressing, Tomato & Basil Dressing, Herb Lemon & Caper Dressing, Orange Vinaigrette & Sun-Dried Tomato Dressing. Salads: Roasted Tomato & Mozzarella Salad, Grilled Asparagus & Egg w/ Herb, Lemon & Caper Dressing, Prawn & Roasted Vegetables Salad, Seared Tuna & Mango Salad w/ Ginger & Coriander Dressing.

Dec. 11 (Thursday) 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Classroom A) SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison, P 1,500 *Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprints, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal & Chocolate Crinkles

Dec. 11 (Thursday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. (Classroom A) JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan & food consultant to various Japanese restaurants in Metro Manila. P 1,700 Recipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Ten-don (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Ton Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus Recipe: Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice)

Dec. 12 (Friday) 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Classroom A) COOKIES FOR COFFEE by: Heny Sison, P 1,500 *Chunky Chewy White Choco Macadamia Cookies, Espresso Biscotti, Chocolate Chip Biscotti, Greek Cookies & Almond Wafer

Dec. 12 (Friday) 1:30-5:30 p.m. (Classroom A) KOREAN COOKING 2 by: Chef Young Hee Kim Park, P 1,700 Soups: Yukgeh Jang (Beef shreds & Vegetables), Dengang Kook (Halsan, Vegetable & Soya Paste), Kimchi Tiege (Kimchi & Pork), Hemul Tang (Seafood, Tofu etc.) Bulgogi Tungol (Beef, Noodle, etc.) Kalbi Gui (Beef & Pork) Gang Jo Lim & 3 kinds of appetizer.

Dec. 12 (Friday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jane Paredes, P 2,500 Discover ways to transform meat, poultry & seafood into Profitable menu items. SAUSAGES: Chorizo Bilbao, Longanisa longga, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage & Mexican Sausage, CONDIMENTS: Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles Chips & Atchara MARINADE: Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino DISHES: Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole & Country Style Pork & Beans.

Dec. 13 (Sat.) 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) BACOLOD SPECIALTIES by: Chef Carol Acosta, P 1,500 Piyaya, Bacolod Butterscotch Bars, Guapple Pie, Flaky Chicken Empanada, Special Buko Pie & Torta Española.

Dec. 13 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) GIFTS FROM THE PANTRY by: Chef Jean Paredes, P 1,700 Food consultant & co-owner of Simply Desserts, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York & at the Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. Recipes: Orange Marmalade, Burong Mangga, Dulong In Olive Oil, Melba Toast, Marinated Laguna White Cheese, Caramel Popcorn, Bacalao in Olive Oil & Mango Jubilee.

Dec. 15-18 (Mon-Thurs) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom A) CAKE DECORATING 3 by: Heny Sison, P 8,000 Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, stringwork, filigree, fancy flowers, color flower cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. Full participation.

Dec. 15 (Mon) 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Classroom B) TAPAS 1 by: Chef Ed Quimson, P 2,500 Croquetas: Chicken, Tuna & Cheese, Croquetas de Paella Negra, Potato & Anchovy, Gambas, Tortilla de Patata, Samosa Tinapa filled w/ Green Mango & Cheese, Pimientos Asados (roasted red bell pepper marinated in olive oil & garlic), Salpicao, Batido de Salmon (whipped cheese & salmon mousse). Full participation.

Dec. 16-18 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Classroom B) BASIC TECHNIQUES OF COOKING by: Chef Jill Sandique, P 8,500 *This is an intensive three-day hands-on workshop for those who hesitated to sign up for a cooking class because they felt they didn't know enough. In this course students will prepare a variety of delicious recipes that compliment each other to create an exciting menu for a family picnic, formal dinner or Sunday brunch. Students will learn everything from appetizers to simple desserts. Class limited to 20. Full participation

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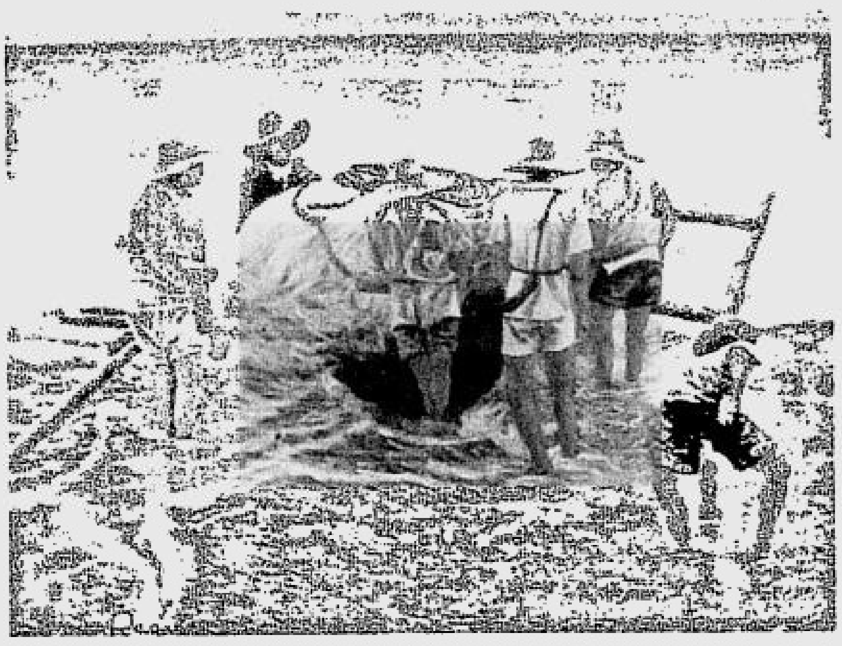
By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor



"HARVEST from the Sea," by Jaime Roque

WHATEVER impels artists to paint glowing paeans to the manifold beauty and bounty of the native land is justifiably served in a show that extols nature's endowments. The exhibit title, "Harvest," aptly conjures images of fertile land and verdant vegetation—and a host of hardy folk whose own existence depends on the bountiful yield from fields and mountains, rivers and seas.

The all-encompassing theme that once propelled genre painters like the quintessential master of light, Fernando Amorsolo, and the visionary Fabian de la Rosa, remains vibrant even in this benighted age of urban migration and environmental decay. As nature continually casts its shadow on life, contemporary artists find themselves taking the path of realism in depicting the never-ending gallery of farmers plowing the fields, planting seed, harvesting the rice; fishermen casting their nets into the seas, and women and children bringing the yield to the market.

These are the images that "Harvest," a show sponsored by Land Bank of the Philippines, seeks to propagate in line with the institution's corporate mission, as declared by chief executive Gary Teves. Participating artists are Norma Belleza, Manuel Yarte, Bernard Vista, Joey Herrera, Jaime Roque, Ronino Quinto, Nell Campos, Vincent de Pio, Mike Velasco and the Guevarra Group of Artists.

Passion for toil

Yarte and Vista, in their oil paintings, share a deep passion for agrarian toil as shown by the communal harvest of rice, the Filipinos' primary food staple. Filling their canvases with a colorful gallery of characters, they celebrate and emulate the farm folk's *bayanihan* spirit in threshing and winnowing rice, in visibly related fashion. The farm hands are idealized figures in pastel-colored work-clothes and native harvest implements.

Herrera has a naif-like sense of figuration that is unlike the rigid, portentously illustrative rendering of the other two. His works, moreover, have a clearly contemporary touch, complete with a tail-wiggling Dalmatian dog and a woman holding aloft a modern umbrella to protect her from the blazing sun.

Quinto, for his part, has a more stylized approach to his renderings of the harvest theme, his women Gauguinesque in their sensuous, sun-tanned charms. His compositions likewise brim with the lush presence of tropical flowers and oversized banana leaves, their exotic appeal perfectly in keeping with the looming East Asian motif.

Artists take the path of realism in depicting the never-ending gallery of farmers, fishermen, and their wives and children

Jerome Francisco's cornucopia of freshly picked, succulent vegetables, highlighted by an oversized pumpkin, will appease a vegetarian's heart and stomach.

Eloquent

Roque's "Harvest from the Sea" comes off as a more eloquent rendering of what could have been a stock subject of fishermen with their catch. Far from contrived, his composition evokes a subtle interplay of emotions, as the five sea-drenched fishermen are shown in a huddle, anticipating the happy prospects of the day's catch.

It is the younger artists, De Pio and Velasco, however, who pull a pleasant surprise. The former is the son of veteran portraitist Gig de Pio, from whom he inherited his painterly skills. In "Fish Harvest," he revels in his subject's anatomical assets, a bald, half-naked figure caught in the act of single-handedly pulling a net presumably brimming with fish. The young artist shows a maturity in the human form.

Velasco, who, like De Pio, is in his early 20s, has an atypical sense of color and composition as shown in his rendering of a tobacco plantation ready for harvest. Subtle and sparing in his use of palette, Velasco's work radiates a quiet harmony in contrast to his peers' more flamboyant and bravura brushwork.

Considering the easy temptations that lurk in the way of exploring the theme to its fullness, both artists wisely temper themselves in the process and opt to take the unpredictable route to the celebration.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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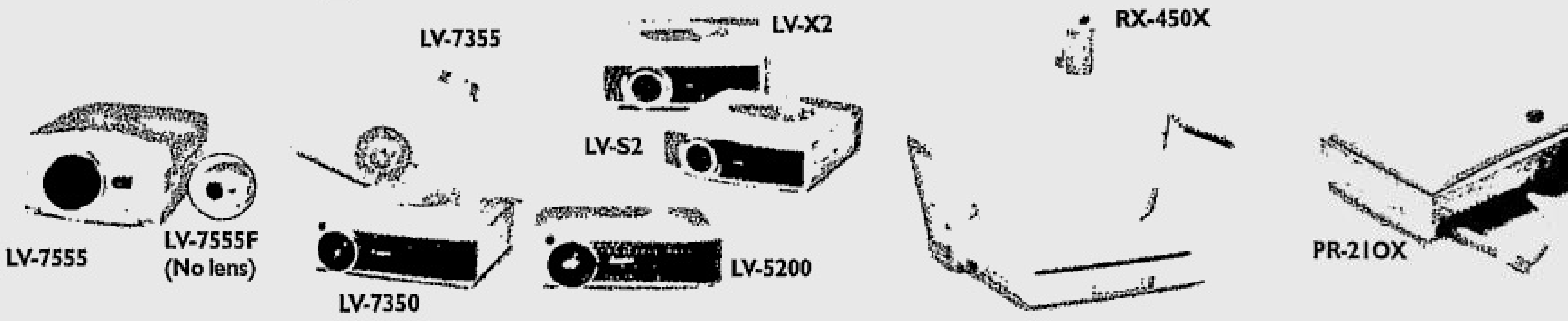

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As for connectivity to video equipment, Canon projectors have Video, S-Video, and Component Video input. Unlike previous models, the component video input is not through RCAx3 ports but through the D-sub terminal (shared with computer in/out). In this case, the optional LV-CA32 Component-VGA Cable is required to convert component video output (RCAx3) from DVD players to the D-sub terminal.

The DVI-I input terminal can also be used for direct digital input from devices such as HDCP-compliant DVD players.

Multi-card imager LV-MI01

Canon projectors come in with the optional Multi-Card Imager, an adapter that connects to the projectors' DVI-I interface.

With this Multi-Card Imager, you can use three types of cards such as the compact flash memory card LV-WN03, or 3rd party cards and you can play images or Power Point presentations from the card.

Power Point presentation must be converted to image files with the software included in LV-MI01 before playing.

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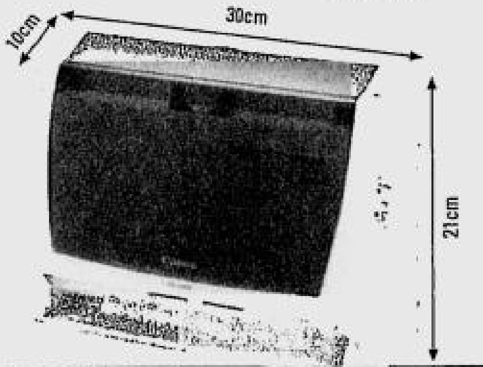

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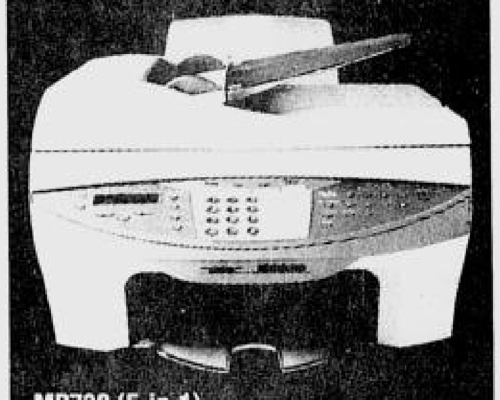

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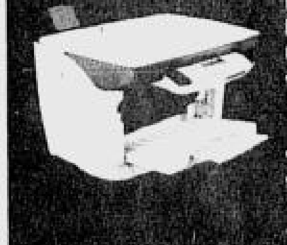

MPC200 (4-in-1)
Print. Scan. Copy. Card Direct.
- Print and copy at 14ppm Mono, 10ppm Colour
- 2400dpi resolution
- Multi card slots for photo printing
- True borderless photo printing and copying

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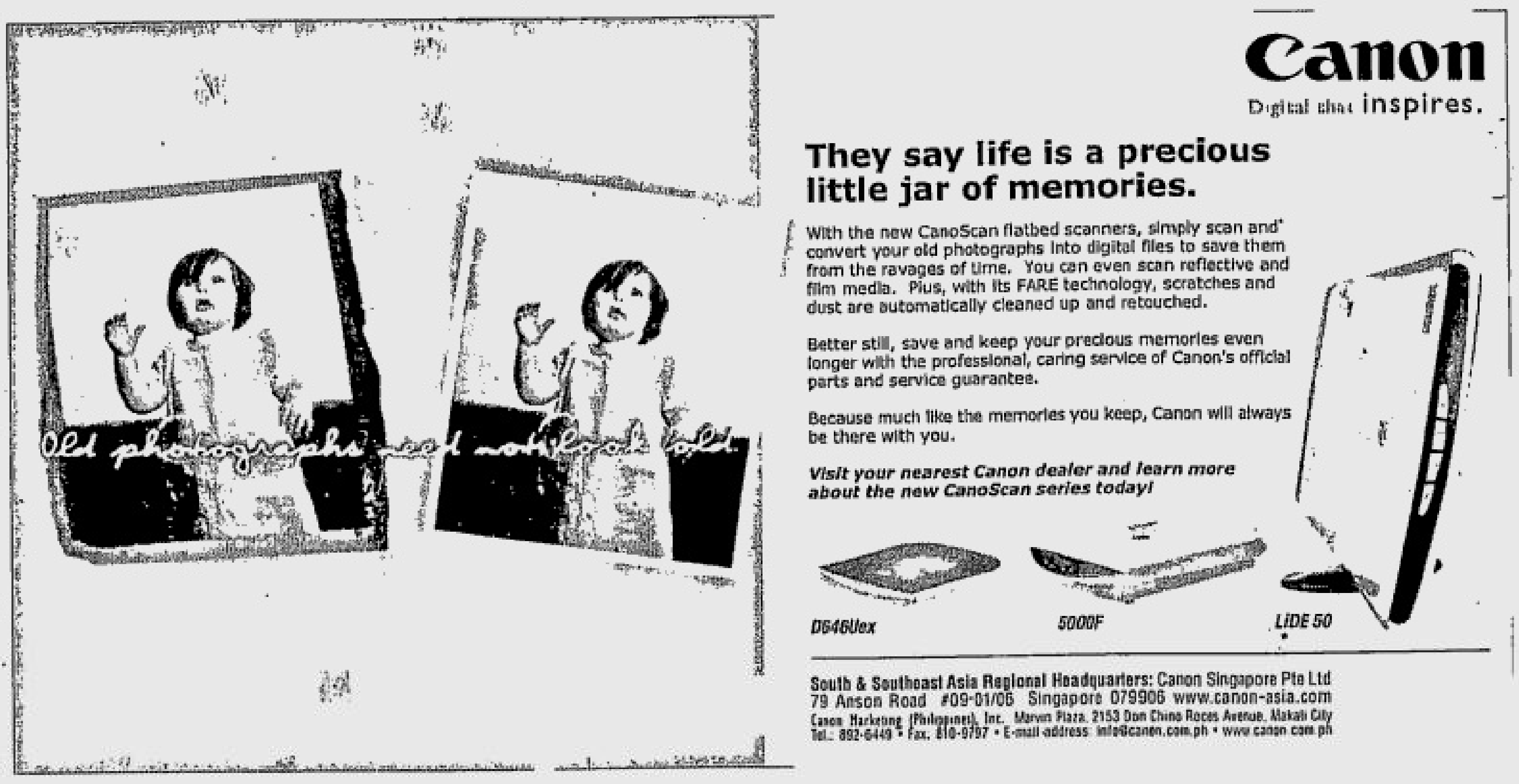
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Now you can swing into winning action with bigger, brighter images and greater flexibility than ever before! Because Canon's new LV-5210 multi-media projector can make your small room seem as large as a fairway. All thanks to its 1.6x wide zoom lens, the highest in its class, which gives you the flexibility to project a 100-inch image from a distance of less than 2.5m. Such freedom makes the LV-5210 the top projector of its kind. For greater professional results, check out the rest of our projector range, featuring Horizontal Keystone Correction for distortion-free images, and options for PC-less or wireless presentations. So give it your best shot by choosing Canon today.

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CANON SCANNERS

We have the right Canon Solution for you

Sleek and high speed document scanner for SMEs and corporate users

CANON DR-2080C is uniquely designed to support decentralized scanning applications that are used by a large cross section of industry segments ranging from government offices, legal, logistics, construction, healthcare, banking and finance, retail industry and other SMEs.

The DR2080C bundled with the advanced Canon "capture perfect" packs in all the features that a customer needs in a document scanner: color scanning, fast grayscale and duplex scanning, high resolution, stitching, scan to e-mail among others. Another unique feature is its ability to generate searchable PDF files of documents "on the fly" while scanning.

The ultra compact DR-2080C has a user-friendly interface that keeps operation simple. It is ideal for capturing documents in minimal space right on your doorstep at an affordable price.

The DR-2080C scanner provides an optical resolution of 600 dpi wit a 20 PPM (pages per minute) scanning speed. In addition to its color capability, it has grayscale and black-and-white duplex speeds of up to 40 images per minute. The machine weighs a mere 2.5 kg and has a footprint of less than 30 x 10 cm, almost like a file folder.

All-in-one that scans, index and write directly onto a CD-R

File cabinets have been the standard for storing and retrieving paper files for years. But at the doorstop to the new millennium, paper itself has become an inefficient mode of storage. Because of its physical limitations, viable and important information is bogged down in mountain of pages.

But thanks to the advent of digital media and technological advancement, information can now be liberated from the page to be free and accessible as real searchable content, rather than just ink and toner on paper.

Affordability of CD-R as a storage medium

CD-ROM Drives, once regarded as an expensive electronic device, are now one of the most inexpensive and accessible storage devices in the market. A CD-R Drive now cost as affordable as P2,000 plus, with each blank media as little as P9 to P50.

With Canon CD-4050, users can scan paper documents and record them into CDs using a method called Packet Writing. In packet writing, a CD can be written to single file at a time. The directory of the CD is updated every time additional data is recorded. This is very convenient for users who need to scan documents in multiple sessions.

Advantages of distributed scanning

For every business that needs to store important information in the most cost efficient manner, input must first take place. Distributed scanning and processing brings more benefits. Documents scanned can be added to the enterprise system quickly and shared across simultaneously. Instead of getting a job done on the next business day, customers can receive their service almost instantaneously.

DR-2080C

CD-4050/4050N

Let's take a quick look at a few real-life industry cases:

Insurance

Agents can scan application and claims forms using Canon CD-4050 and transmit images to the processing office instead of sending them first to the centralized office or even to transport documents physically from Point A to Point B.

Transportation

As documents are generated in high-volume, it is crucial to simplify daily workflow to ensure that operations are seamless. In the case of a courier company, Airway Bills (AWB) can be scanned into digital images using Canon CD40-50. This machine is intelligent to pick up user-predefined index fields such as the AWB numbers, account numbers, etc. These indexed fields are useful during tracking, billing and future references.

Banks and financial institutions

What about bank checks that are deposited? With its Magnetic Character Ink Recognition (MICR) decoding capability, Canon Cd-4050 can scan checks and decode MICR detail as useful indexes such as account, check number, etc. Checks' images can also be stored into CDs for future retrievals.

Canon CD-4050 has all the necessary elements to fit into a high-volume document imaging environment. This revolutionary model allows users to perform the following tasks:

- Complete all-in-one document imaging system (scan, index, CD-recording and networking)
- Simple user interface with color touch screen panel
- Scans documents at 39 ppm and even doubled sided (duplex) at single pass
- Records images directly into CD-ROM
- Stores up to 20,000 pages on a single CD
- Automatic indexing (barcode, MICR,OCR)
- Creates various widely accepted file formats such as PDF and TIFF
- Uses Multi-Session/Packet Writing Technology
- Special Rollers for scanning non-carbon and pressure sensitive paper
- Easy to setup and operate. Best of all, minimal technical system support

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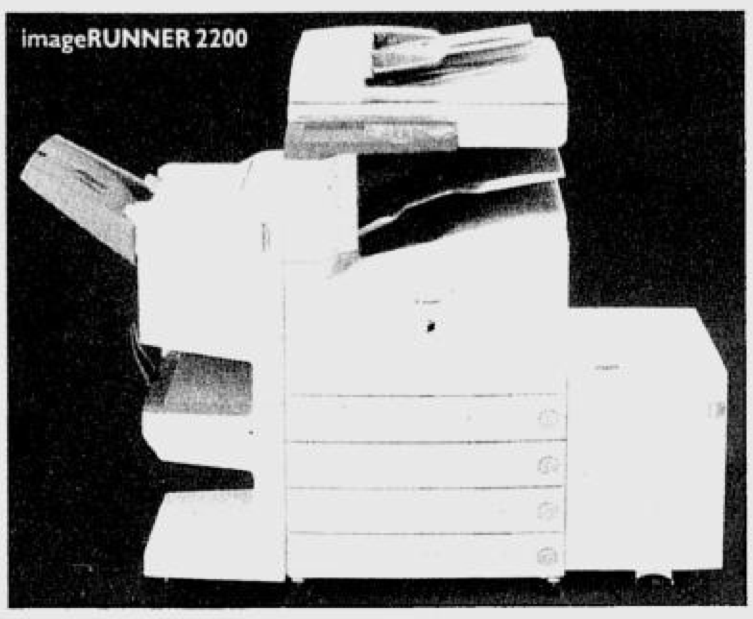

imageRUNNER 2200

Introducing the new imageRUNNER 2200 from Canon- offering unsurpassed performance in stand-alone or networked document-management environments.

BUILT upon Canon's newly developed, network-oriented architecture, termed imagePlatform, the imageRUNNER 2200 offers 22-page-per-minute speed, with advanced print, scan, and fax features, and the highest level of image quality, network integration, and elevated multitasking capabilities on the market.

Designed specifically for the needs of corporate workgroups, the imageRUNNER 2200 allows your organization to manage its hard-copy and electronic-based information, regardless of form, content, or location, to give you the level of efficiency you are accustomed to, plus a competitive advantage.

Why stand-alone when you can connect

Canon's clear advantage lies in our seamless integration with customer networks, giving users the ability to leverage system capabilities from their desktops. In choosing Canon products, your organization will benefit from initial investment protection other manufacturers cannot simply match.

A new level of printing functionality

The imageRUNNER 2200 is ideally suited to handle the printing requirements of workgroups and departments, with a print controller capable of handling 10/100 Ethernet or Token Ring connections, using PostScript ® 3 Emulation and PCL®5e and PCL 6 print languages.

Canon has created print driver software designed with an easy-to-use user-interface that is friendly for the novice, yet capable enough to handle the demands of power users. The driver software displays a dynamic image of the device, indicating installed hardware options, paper size, and paper levels.

As attributes change, the driver automatically informs the users of the latest device capabilities. To further simplify use, Canon offers the ability to view page layout settings from within the driver prior to printing. Using this driver capability, users are assured their output will print as expected, with no surprises.

Other significant capabilities include the ability to save frequently used print settings, annotate documents, add watermarks, and select extensive document-finishing and booklet-making features.

We haven't forgotten the network administrator! Canon offers multiple installation methods and ships the only driver software available on the market capable of discovering devices on the network. This allows administrators to automatically configure all equipped options with just a click of the mouse.

Canon has equipped these systems with extensive printing capabilities not found on traditional network laser printers. Some of these enhanced capabilities include the following:

Mail Box Printing-users can send print data to personal mail boxes for integration with other stored image, thereby creating news compound documents.

Page Composer-users can combine and print documents that were created in different applications as a single document, preview and manipulate the merged file through a thumbnail view, and change settings on-the-fly.

Secured print-permits entry of a confidential PIN from within the print driver. Printing will begin only upon user-entry of his/her confidential PIN number at the device.

Merging hard-copy and electronic information

The imageRUNNER 2200 ships with the ability to scan documents to internal user mail boxes. Users may also view images stored in a mail box through the Remote UI function. This function is ideally suited to users who wish to combine scanned documents with electronic print documents at the device.

For network scanning and workflow requirements, Canon's Network TWAIN driver software provides enhanced scanning capabilities on the imageRUNNER 2200 through any TWAIN-compliant software application.

Faxing more capable than stand-alone devices

The imageRUNNER 2200 provides fax capabilities far more capable than most stand-alone devices available on the market today.

At 33.6 Kbps transmission speed, or approximately 3 seconds per page, users will save time and dramatically reduce transmission costs. With the DADF, you can greatly enhance faxing productivity by scanning simplex or duplex documents of sizes up to A3.

Address book-stores frequently used destinations through one-touch buttons and coded-dial numbers through the touch-screen user-interface panel.

Memory reception-the device can be programmed to hold all incoming documents in memory prior to printing. Through a web browser, users can then preview the contents of the received document for easy identification prior to printing or deleting, if necessary.

A truly modular system

As a truly modular system, the imageRUNNER 2200 can be configured to address the Network Printing, Super G3 Faxing, and Network Scanning requirements of workgroups as needed.

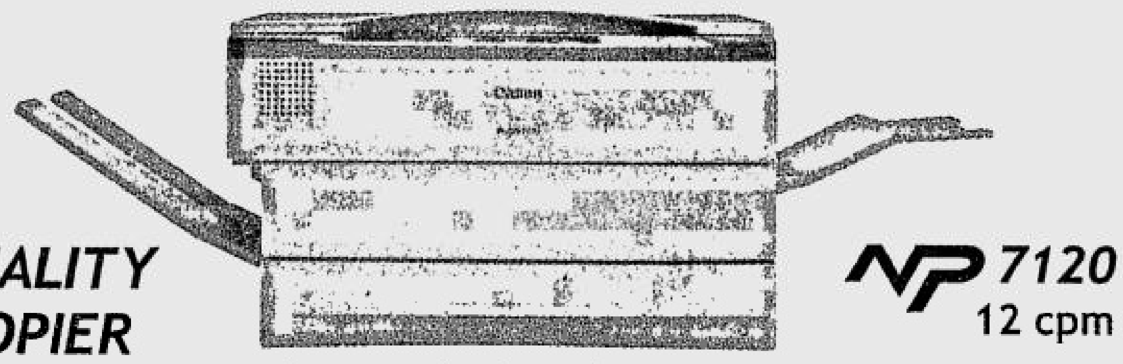
Increased productivity without compromises

With Canon's proprietary RAPID Fusing System, the imageRUNNER 2200 provides quick, on-demand operation that virtually eliminates the long warm-up periods typically associated with conventional devices, and helps reduce energy consumption costs. A compact, "wingless" design brings powerful features to your workgroup, without compromising office space.

Superior image quality is always standard

Canon's world-class leadership in image quality-capturing the highest level of detail quality in every document-is standard on every imageRUNNER 2200. Delivering output at 1200 x 1600 dpi resolution, and print output at an outstanding 2400 x 600 dpi resolution, you'll find yourself asking, "Is this a copy, or the original?"

Canon



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imageRUNNER
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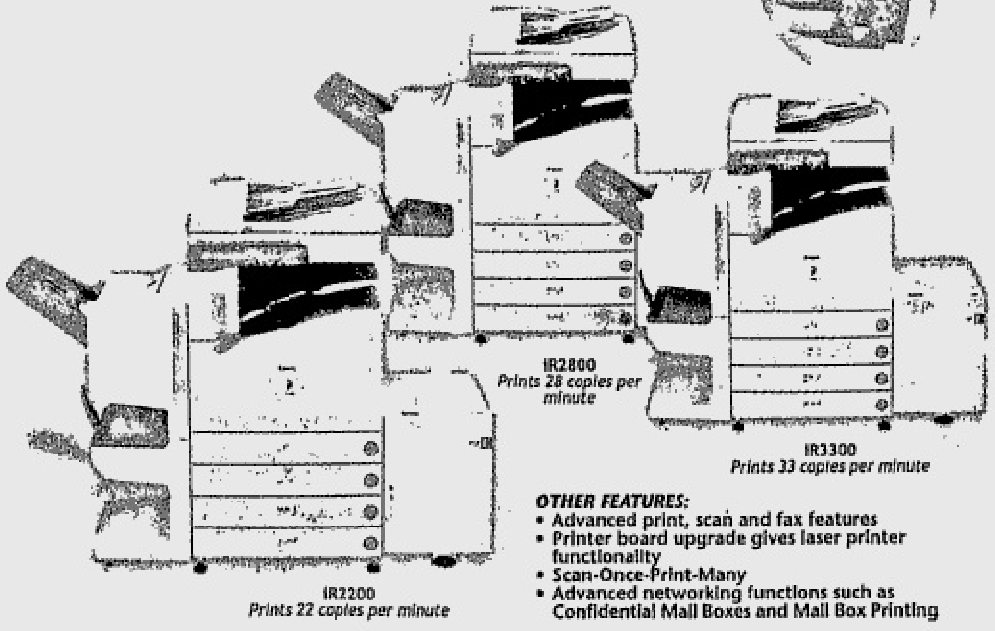
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Promo period is from October 15 to November 30, 2003.

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'Bridge' in the digital image world

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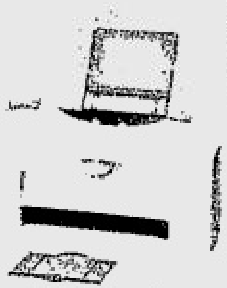


Canon_i455

THERE'S no stopping the digital revolution. Consumers are taking in all the technology. This goes with the digital cameras, which are now becoming cool and affordable gadgets, just like the cellular phones.

There are so many brands of digital cams, and to choose a model with functions that suit today's fast paced lifestyle can bewilder. Is there a digicam that can print directly to any platform or to any printer?

Worry no more. With the digicam revolution comes the solution when six member-manufacturers of the Japan based Camera and Imaging Products Association gathered their heads together and came up with the PictBridge Technology.

Pictbridge technology is a groundbreaking firmware that will enable consumers to print photos with a printer brand that's different from their camera. That means that whether you are using Compact Flash, Smart Media, Memory Stick, SD, MMC or Microdrive memory card, you can print your images with a printer having the PictBridge technology.

Canon, who is a member of the Camera and Imaging Products Association, is the first to introduce the PictBridge technology into their products.

Five of these are bubble jet printers: the Canon i455, which is the most affordable; the

i475D, which has a multicard slot for six different memory cards; the i560, for small home offices; the i865D, which is intended for high-volume business printing; and the printer for the pros, i905D.

Canon also has very compact dye-sublimation printers. With two of its mobile portable printers (CP-200 and CP-300), digicam users can now not only shoot but also print anywhere and anytime. CP-300 even has free rechargeable batteries that make the unit serviceable practically anywhere.

PictBridge, which will soon be the standard firmware used by digicam and related products, offers tremendous benefits for consumers and vendors. It ensures compatibility across digital still cameras, digital video cameras and printers. It also enables users to easily perform operations using the camera, regardless of brand. This gives consumers the flexibility and simplicity to create high-quality photos.

For the vendors, this is expected to spur further growth in the digital imaging industry as wider choices are given to consumers through PictBridge-compliant products and solutions. And since only the application layer is specified in PictBridge, vendors can easily adopt the standard. In addition, it is also possible to expand PictBridge to other interfaces beyond USB in the future.

Superior technologies behind Canon LCD Projectors

From page G1

don't need as much room for large-size projection: 100 inch images, for example, can be projected from 1.2 meters closer than was possible with previous models. Canon's acclaimed lens expertise ensures low distortion and enhanced color fidelity as well.

Canon Optical Box Technology

Canon's world-renowned expertise in optical technology puts the LV-X2 and LV-S2 at the top of their class for image quality. Inside each model, the new projection lens is linked to Canon's innovative Clear Prism, which ensures superior color fidelity through efficient light processing.

Clear Prism used in Canon's new optical box offers two key advantages over cross-dichroic prisms:

- Its parts do not all intersect at one point, eliminating the appearance of faint vertical lines on the projected image.
- No two LCD panels face each other, preventing the unwanted transmission of light onto an opposing panel, which can disrupt operation.

Turbo Bright System

The right picture quality in any situation is what Canon's innovative Turbo Bright System offers. That is why it includes two separate brightness modes:

True Color for superior color production.

Brighter for clear images when the room lights are on. All it takes is the touch of the button on the remote control or the projector body. Incredibly, the Turbo Bright System delivers brighter projection without increasing power consumption.

Wireless Imager LVW101

The optional Wireless Imager allows wireless enabled users to take turns projecting data during a meeting. It works with still images from a wide range of application software, and is designed to operate in both LAN and non-LAN environments.

Network Imager LV-N101

The optional Network Imager connects the LV-7555 to your computer network, for remote management of the projector via graphic user interface. Many tasks are simplified, such as: programming the LV-7555 for operation on a daily or weekly schedule; input mode switching and picture adjustment; sending status alerts via email; remote transfer of images; and centralized control of multiple projectors.

Advanced Interface: Component Video

The advantage of using component video is best understood by comparing it to composite video, which combines the various elements of the video signal (i.e., luminance and color information) into one connection. The projector receives only one signal from the video source, which it must decode. Component video, on the other hand, keeps these elements separate.

Better picture quality

Video content is clearly projected and interference (such as that caused by pinstriped clothing or intricate line patterns) is eliminated; subtle flickering is also prevented.

Compatibility with DVD and HDTV

The high quality of the component video connection makes it ideal for projecting DVD and HDTV content. (Compatible HD video formats: 720p, 1035i and 1080i)

Advanced Interface: DVI

Digital Visual Interface (DVI) is a high-speed interface that provides a digital-to-digital connection between PC and projector, avoiding the signal conversion steps required by an Analog RGB interface.

Clearer Picture

Crisp projection without adjustment-no image flickering, blurred lines, ghosting or coloration problems with text display because DVI connection includes a pixel clock to accurately reconstruct the timing information of the digital signal.

Plug & Play

The projector automatically identifies the PC signal, allowing for easier setup.

Advanced Interface: 5BNC

5BNC is a type of coaxial cable that has separate connections for R, G, B color signals and synchronizing signals (horizontal and vertical). It offers demanding users a high-end interface option when using the LV-7555 in the very large rooms. Additionally, 5NBC interface supports long cable connections-10 meters or more-without deterioration in image quality.

Canon
CONNECTS

New Canon PictBridge Photo Printers
connect directly to any PictBridge-compatible
Digital Camera or Video Camcorder!

Canon was the first to offer Camera Direct, allowing you to connect your Canon Digital Camera directly to your Canon printer. Now, Canon's latest photo printers feature PictBridge, a new industry standard that allows any PictBridge-compatible digital camera or digital video camcorder to be directly connected. The quality and convenience of Canon photo printers are now available to all. Make a direct connection with the new Canon iSeries printers, which produce MicroFine 2 picolitre ink droplets for exceptional detail. Coupled with 4800 x 1200dpi, speeds of up to 23 ppm monochrome / 16 ppm colour, and loads of creative software, the iSeries is your bridge to exceptional digital photographs. Or you can connect to the portable CP dye-sublimation printers to get instant photographs. Whatever digital camera you use, now you can cross the bridge to Canon digital photo perfection. PictBridge...no barrier!

Brand A
Brand B
Brand C
Brand D
Brand E

Brand A
Brand B
Brand C
Brand D
Brand E

Canon
Printer

Canon
Digital Camera / Digital Video Camcorder

PictBridge

Exif Print

i455
- 2pl ink droplets
- Up to 4800x1200 dpi resolution
- Up to 18ppm mono/12ppm colour

i475D
- 2pl ink droplets
- Up to 4800x1200 dpi resolution
- Up to 18ppm mono/12ppm colour
- Card Direct printing (6 types of memory cards)

i560
- 2pl ink droplets
- Up to 4800x1200 dpi resolution
- Up to 22ppm mono/15 ppm colour
- 4 colour inks (Think Tanks)

i865
- 2pl ink droplets
- Up to 4800x1200 dpi resolution
- Up to 23ppm mono/10ppm colour
- CD-R printing
- 6 colour inks (Think Tanks)

i905D
- 2pl ink droplets
- Up to 4800x1200 dpi resolution
- Up to 8ppm mono/7ppm colour
- CD-R/Card Direct printing (8 types of memory cards)
- 6 colour inks (Think Tanks)

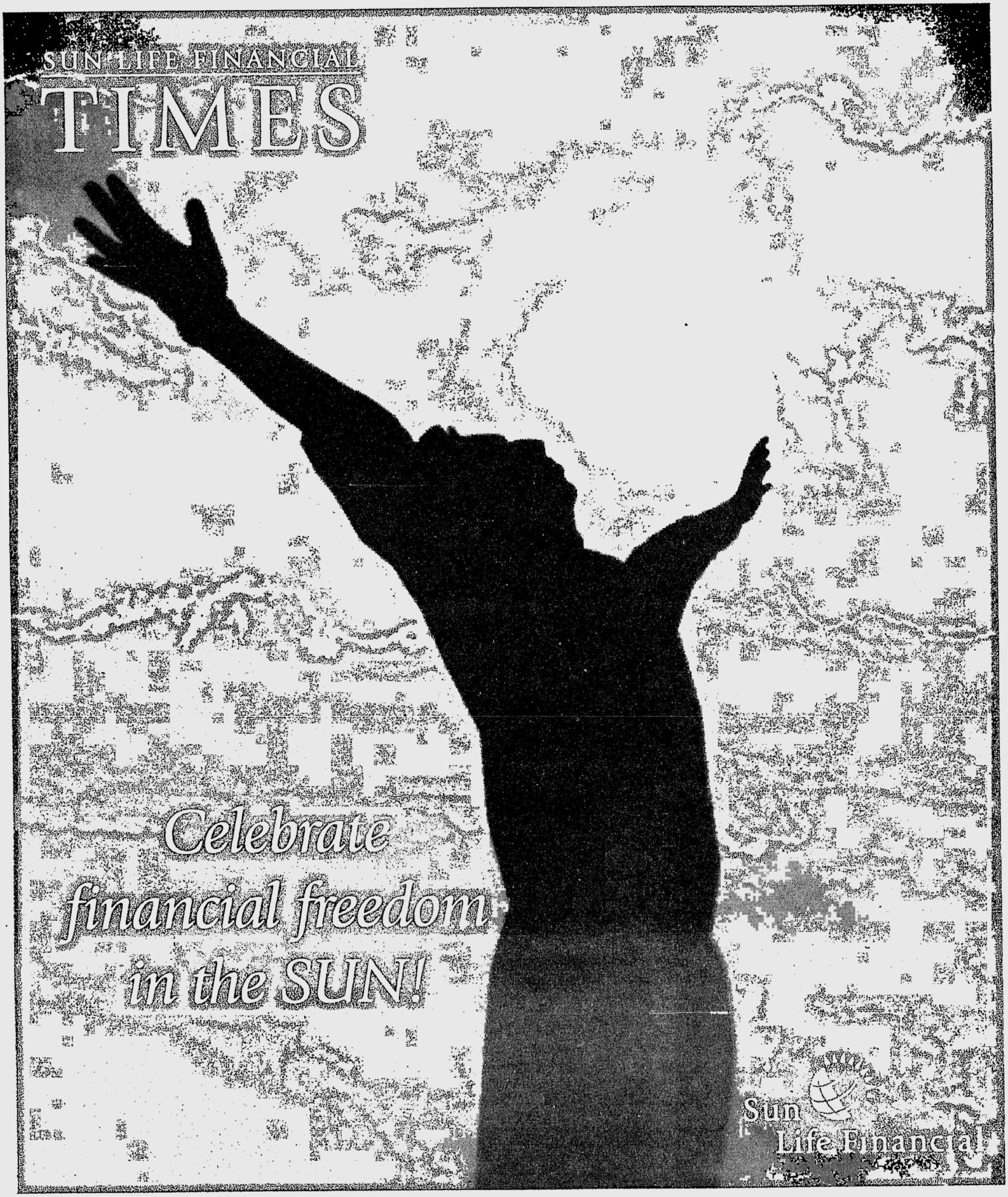
CP200
- Portable & compact
- Prints 4R, 3R, card & sticker labels
- Fast printing in just 85 secs (4R)
- Superb photo-quality prints with dye-sublimation technology

CP300
- Portable & compact
- Prints 4R, 3R, card & sticker labels
- Fast printing in just 85 secs (4R)
- Superb photo-quality prints with dye-sublimation technology
- Portable battery pack

South & South East Asia Regional Headquarters: Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 79 Anson Road #09-01/06 Singapore 079906 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797 • E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
METRO MANILA/LUZON DISTRIBUTOR: GLEE Electronics Tel: 727-7017 to 19 Fax: 726-2215 E-mail: sales@glee.com.ph **VISAYAS/MINDANAO DISTRIBUTOR:** MDR Microware Sales Tel: (032) 255-3242 Fax: (032) 254-4018 E-mail: sales@mdr.ph
METRO MANILA DEALERS: Asianic Tel.: 781-6206 • Columbia Tel.: 635-9080 • Complink Tel.: 893-1489 • Compuware Tel.: 896-0332 • Electroworld Tel.: 812-3868 • Microgenesis Tel.: 893-0551 • PC City Tel.: 705-1322 • PC Corner Tel.: 723-1718 • PC Express Tel.: 725-8888 • PC Hub Tel.: 413-1135 • PC Option Tel. 722-5639 • Premium PC Depot Tel.: 721-6082 • Silicon Valley Tel.: 633-1723 • Super East Asia Tel.: 524-4604 • TCA Tel.: 634-2437 • Villman Tel.: 638-0532 **PROVINCIAL DEALERS** Benerson Tel.: (045) 982-8273 • Color Master Tel.: (043) 980-1234 • Future Shop Tel.: (033) 336-4509 • MJ Enterprises Tel.: (078) 846-2248

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL

TIMES



Celebrate financial freedom in the SUN!

Sun Life Financial

The Sun within Reach

At Sun Life Financial, we try to make it easy for you to gain financial security.

First, we get rid of your needless worries. With the strength and the stability of a company trusted worldwide to provide financial services, you can rest assured that your hard-earned money is in good hands with Sun Life Financial.

> **To complement our customer service centers and business offices in strategic locations nationwide, we have revitalized our customer relationship management (CRM) system. With this, our call center is better equipped with all the information necessary to respondto your inquiries**

Next, we offer products that fit the Filipinos' needs to the letter. Sun Life Financial's life insurance, mutual funds and pre-need products are designed to maximize your protection and wealth accumulation benefits.

Finally, we connect to you with a brand of service excellence that has become the foundation of our relationship with over 400,000 policyholders in the Philippines. Because at Sun Life Financial, we try to always be within your reach.

To complement our customer service centers and business offices in strategic locations nationwide, we have revitalized our customer relationship management (CRM) system. With this, our call center is better equipped with all the information necessary to respond to your inquiries.

PRE-NEED PLAN
INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS
FOR
Sun Life Plans
NOW ACCEPTED AT THE
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
Please present your Statement of Account at the Services Counter
Bills Payment is also accepted at SM Supermarket
(Ortigas, Las Pinas, Fairview, Bacoor and Manila)

We have also enhanced the capabilities of SunLink Online, a page in our website that allows policyholders to remotely manage and make changes in their policies, wherever they are and whenever they decide to do so.

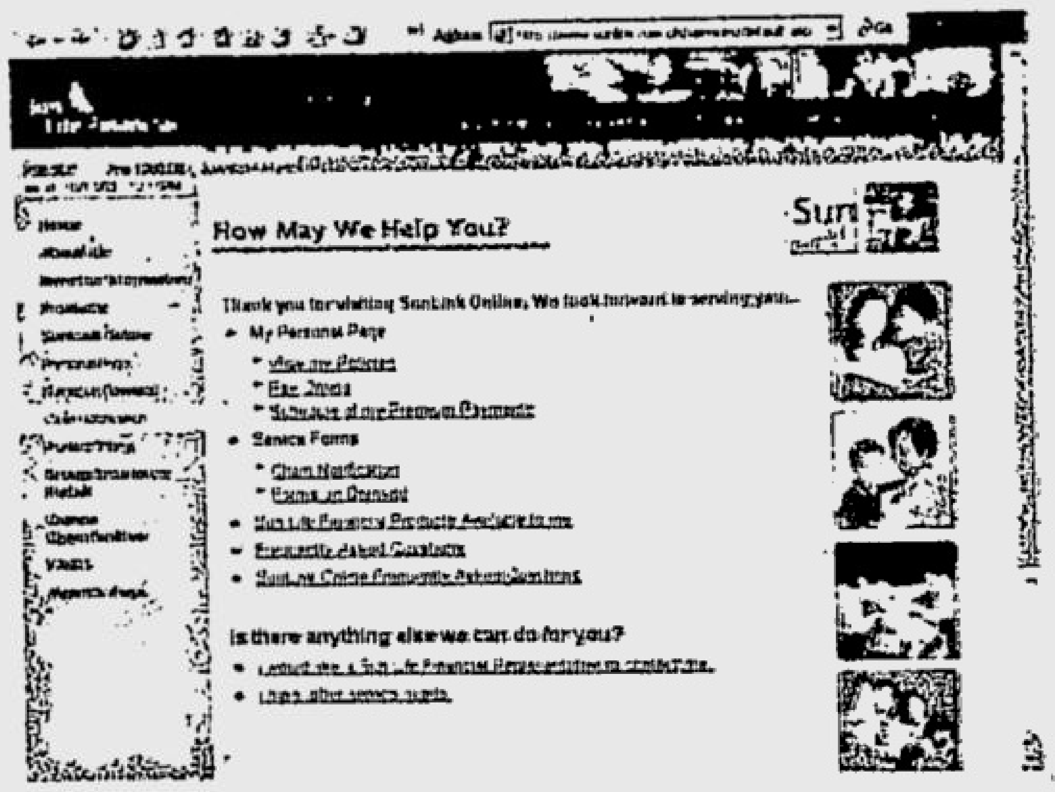
Recently, we also launched a Group Insurance Portal. The Portal is not very different from SunLink Online, except it has been customized to meet the specific needs of group insurance clients.

Beyond the Internet, we have forged strategic partnerships that would broaden our reach and accessibility to you. Sun Life Financial has accredited the SM Bills Payment Facility and Urban Bank to receive premium payments on its behalf.

And through our longstanding partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, we have made it even more convenient to settle insurance dues by allowing you to autocharge premium payments through the Sun Life Financial-Standard Chartered Bank co-branded credit cards.

But we're not done with connecting to you yet. Soon, you'll be able to reach us through your mobile phones as well. When we can communicate through short messaging system or text, then we'll be literally within arms reach!

GRiP
GRoup Insurance Portal


How May We Help You?

Thank you for visiting SunLink Online. We look forward to serving you.

- My Personal Page
- Service Forms
- Frequently Asked Questions

Is there anything else we can do for you?

Invest Your Money on the US Dollar

Defy Gravity with SUN FOREX PLUS!

Saving and investing.
What's the difference?

Defy Gravity with Sun Forex Plus

To *save your money* is to spend it *wisely* so you can have more of it at your disposal. It is being a careful consumer. It is keeping track of expenses. It is budgeting so you can control the flow of your money. On the other hand, to *invest your money* is to make it grow.

If you decide to grow your money by investing it, you must assess your financial situation, determine your financial goals, and estimate the amount of time it would take for you to reach these goals. The success of your investment plan would depend on your ability to balance these factors.

Nowadays, having a nest egg put away for emergencies or achieving financial goals is much wiser than keeping what you currently have. Today's global financial market offers numerous and ever increasing investment choices. You can, for example, invest in dollar-denominated instruments.

The peso has been through numerous devaluations over the last years. Often, when the value of the peso falls against the dollar, the prices of basic commodities, household expenditures and tuition fees increase and eventually deplete the savings of the unprepared.

By choosing to invest in a dollar-denominated product, you prevent your hard-earned savings from being eaten up by peso devaluation.

The *Sun Forex Plus*, in particular, is a US dollar-denominated life insurance policy that maximizes its value when benefits are needed most.

The plan pays out a lifetime cash benefit equivalent to 6% of the face amount every other year beginning on the 4th policy anniversary, without diminishing the value of the face amount. It generates dividends, which can be withdrawn or left to accumulate. The policy accumulates cash values that may be accessed during emergencies or for use as collateral against a business loan.

More layers of security may be added to the Sun Forex Plus.	
Waiver of Premiums	*Increased Coverage*
By combining your Sun Forex Plus with:	*Death Benefits may also be increased for a small additional cost by availing yourself of:*
Total Disability Benefit - premiums may be completely waived in the event of total or permanent disability	*Accidental Death Benefit* - which doubles the amount paid (up to a maximum amount) to the beneficiary if death is caused by an accident.
Waiver of Premium Upon Death of Initial Owner Benefit – premiums may be completely waived until the insured child reaches 21 in the event of policyowner's death	*5 Year/Yearly Renewable and Convertible Term Benefit* – which provides additional life insurance coverage for a limited period, giving the policyholder additional flexibility.

For more information about defying gravity with the Sun Forex Plus or to avail of free financial planning service, please e-mail PHIL_SunDirect@sunlife.com

Insurance, Dividends, and the Economy

Investments that offer the potential for good dividends appeal to investors. It is no surprise then that insurance policies that provide clients the opportunity to receive dividends or so-called participating policies are often preferred.

The way dividends from participating policies are derived, however, is radically different from what a stock market investor would expect.

In simple terms, an ordinary company makes a profit if its revenue or sales exceeds its expenses. The company may then declare a portion of the profit as dividends to shareholders.

Dividends distributed in the case of participating policyholders represent an amount of excess earnings or excess profit over the required profit of a reserve fund. As a result, economic conditions, particularly interest rates, play a very powerful role in determining whether policyholders will receive dividends or not and how much the dividends will be.

When an insurance company collects premiums for the issuance of insurance policies, it sets aside a portion of the premiums as reserves to cover for the company's payment of future benefits to policyholders. Mathematically, local insurance regulations require that the reserve funds equal the present value of future benefits less the present value of future premiums.

An insurance company invests the reserve fund in various asset classes, typically bonds, stocks, loans, and/or real estate. If prudently managed, the fund should earn or register a return on the investments.

Under the law, insurance companies should assume that the reserve fund would yield no more than 6 percent a year. The lower or more conservative the assumed rate of return, the more secured are policyholders because the insurance company will have to contribute a larger amount of its collected premiums to beef up the reserve fund.

If the reserve fund earns more than the assumed rate of return, which could be lower but no more than 6 percent, then the insurance company may declare the excess earnings or a portion of it as dividends to the participating policyholders. Dividends for participating policies may be left with the insurance company to accumulate and later be used to pay the future premiums of the policy, an arrangement commonly called Premium Offset.

> An insurance company invests the reserve fund in various asset classes, typically bonds, stocks, loans, and/or real estate. If prudently managed, the fund should earn or register a return on the investments

In a certain year, the company may distribute only a portion of the excess earnings and leave some as a buffer. Over the long term, most if not all excess earnings should be received by policyholders as dividends based on a dividend scale.

The amount of annual dividends would likely grow as the reserve fund would normally grow over time with the addition of more premiums and increased accumulation of earnings because of compounding.

From this, one can see how vital interest rates are in influencing dividend distribution. For example, a reserve fund heavily invested in government bonds would see a gradual drop in earnings if Treasury bill rates declined and remained low for a number of years. At present, most insurance companies have locked the bulk of their reserves in long-term government securities.

Of course, a whole slew of factors affect the direction of interest rates. If government wants to stimulate economic growth it will use the tools available to it to bring down interest rates. Inflation, the supply of money, demand for borrowings, and government policies are also among the factors.

Aside from interest rate, mortality rate and taxes also weigh in on the determination of dividends in participating policies, though to a much lesser extent.

Insurance premiums are computed based on certain assumption of mortality rate. If the mortality experience is lower than the assumed mortality rate, then a portion of the excess is given out as dividends. With a low mortality rate, the reserve fund has a longer time period to grow larger and earn more because total deductions for benefit payments will be smaller. Meanwhile, taxes can affect the yield on investments.

A higher withholding tax on bonds, for example, would reduce the net yield on such instruments.

In other jurisdictions, expenses also have a hand regarding dividends because the computation of the reserve fund includes estimated expenses.

A Legacy of Trust.

Aida C. Portugal
Client since 1973.

Emmanuel C. Portugal
Client since 1987.

Abigail B. Portugal
Client since 1996.

Sun Life Financial since 1895.
3 Generations. 1 Company.

Because trust is earned.

Sun
Life Financial
The first and the oldest
in the Philippines

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds; and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., offering pension and education plans.

Larger than life!

In this day and age when success entails more than a simple mix of management prowess and luck, it is inspiring to know that Sun Life Financial, strong and persisting in 17 countries worldwide today, began as a simple life insurance business in Montreal in 1865.

The organization has since become a financial services powerhouse headquartered in Canada and with offices in the United States, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Bermuda, Ireland, the UK, Bahrain, India, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Japan and Australia.

International Operations
IRELAND
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
CANADA
UNITED KINGDOM
JAPAN
UNITED STATES
BERMUDA
BAHRAIN
INDIA
HONG KONG
PHILIPPINES
BRAZIL
SINGAPORE
INDONESIA
CHILE
AUSTRALIA
ARGENTINA

Employing close to 15,000 people of various nationalities and complemented by an extensive distribution network of career sales forces, agents and financial planners, Sun Life Financial has built a name and a reputation in wealth management and protection.

Specifically in asset management, annuities, mutual funds, individual and group life and term insurance and pre-needs, the Sun Life Financial group has won the trust and confidence of generations the world over. So much so that people find comfort in dealing even with the affiliated brands of the organization, among which are Clarica, Independent Financial Marketing Group, MFS Investment Management, McLean Budden, and Keyport Life.

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is driven by the same passion for excellence that served as the momentum upon which the international organization grew.

One hundred eight years ago in 1895, Sun Life Financial came to the Philippines as Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc. to pioneer life insurance.

The business stayed on through war, calamity, and political and economic challenges. It evolved best business practices to achieve its goal of providing Filipinos financial freedom over their lifetime.

By any yardstick and owing largely to prudence and a strong commitment to serve, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc. remained at the fore of the industry as one of the largest life insurers with over 400,000 policies in force.

Beyond life insurance

The senior management of Sun Life Financial in the Philippines shifted focus and made customers needs its top priority as early as the turn of the last century. Consequently, the company began to move beyond life insurance.

Responding to the market's need for protection from economic fluctuations and an alternative investment tool, Sun Life Financial introduced its mutual fund subsidiary, the Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc. SLAMC, as it has been fondly called, is the exclusive manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Bond, Balanced, Philippine Equity and Dollar Advantage funds. Not long after, Sun Life Financial in the Philippines opened another subsidiary—the Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., which would cater to the Filipinos' need for future security through pension and education plans.

> **She was at the helm when Sun Life Financial in the Philippines demutualized in the year 2000. And it was also under her leadership that the company subsequently founded the asset management and pre-need subsidiaries.**

Both subsidiaries have been doing very well. While the pre-need arm jumped from last to the tenth spot in its industry two years since it began operations, the asset management subsidiary is busy expanding its distribution network.

Sun Life Asset Management Company has in fact very recently forged a strategic partnership with the Philippine Stock Exchange. The tie-up will allow the public to purchase mutual funds through authorized brokers at the local bourse.

All about vision

The dynamic and dedicated visionary in Ms. Esther C. Tan, president and chief executive officer of Sun Life Financial's Philippine operations, is instrumental in bringing continuing success to the company.

She was at the helm when Sun Life Financial in the Philippines demutualized in the year 2000. And it was also under her leadership that the company subsequently founded the asset management and pre-need subsidiaries.

Ms. Tan recalled, "Early on, we envisioned Sun Life Financial in the Philippines to become more diversified not only to complete the array of financial services we offer, but more importantly to meet the growing needs and demands of our customers."

By establishing SLAMCI and SLFPI to complement the life insurance business, Ms. Tan was able to steer Sun Life Financial in the Philippines closer to its goal of providing Filipinos with financial freedom, wherever they are and no matter their lifestyle. "Filipinos desire an investment tool that will conserve their wealth or even make it grow, but they need one that does not require too much of their time and attention. The Sun Life Prosperity Funds address these needs perfectly," observed Ms. Tan.

In the non-urban areas, she observed that pension and education products are perceived with greater importance. "With our pre-need products, we are able to address our clients' concerns about protection in the future. By offering participating plans, we also give them the chance to earn dividends on top of the regular benefits of their plans," she explained.

For Ms. Tan and the three Sun Life Financial companies in the country, there is no stopping now, let alone slowing down. She said, "We will continue to change, adjusting to the needs and wants of the Filipino people. We will continue to bring them our world-renowned brand of customer service as well as best-value products."

The vision of providing financial freedom to Filipinos is a daunting task even for an achiever like Ms. Tan, who began her career at Sun Life as a record-breaking sales agent and worked her way up to where she currently sits as the highest executive of the three Sun Life companies here.

Ms. Tan admitted that she could not have achieved all these things alone if not for the impressive team of agents, staff and executives who rally behind her, working as one with her, to achieve the goals of the company. She declared, "In the future as in the past, the Filipino people can continue to expect only the best from us."

Esther C. Tan
President and chief executive officer
of Sun Life Financial's Philippine operation

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Investment Flexibility for You

Investors who have the time, money, and inclination can build a stock portfolio one security at a time. But identifying, researching, and monitoring investments—and keeping careful records—takes quite a commitment. That is why most people prefer the convenience and instant diversification that mutual funds bring to their investment programs.

A mutual fund is simply an investment that allows a group of investors with the same financial goals to pool their money together. A mutual fund has professional asset managers who are responsible for investing the pooled money into specific securities (usually stocks or bonds).

Mutual funds are one of the best investments ever created because they are very cost efficient and very easy to invest in. You don't have to figure out which stocks or bonds to buy nor do you have to worry about when to purchase or sell them.

In mutual funds, with just Php 10,000 you can already own a variety of securities, which you may not be able to assemble or afford, if you invest on your own. Mutual funds provide the benefit of having an asset manager take care of monitoring the day-to-day performance of your investments, record-keeping for your account, and spreading out your money over many different prime securities at a good price.

Sun Life Prosperity Funds is the first 'family of mutual funds' to be launched in the country. It is managed and distributed by Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc. (SLAMCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc. and a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

The year-to-date returns of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds (from January to August 2003 only) are as follows:

Performance vs. Benchmarks

Year-to-Date Returns* *as of August 2003*	
Sun Life Prosperity Equity Fund	22.56%
Phisix	17.13%
Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund	18.27%
Benchmark	10.18%
Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund	5.74%
91-day Treasury Bill rate	3.23%

Among its peers, Sun Life Financial proves to be a proud and formidable competitor. As of August 2003, Sun Life's year-to-date returns on its Equity Fund and Bond Fund were both in first place while returns on its Balanced Fund was a close second. Clearly, Sun Life Prosperity Funds, has been gaining momentum in the Mutual Funds market while the Sun Life Asset Management Company is building a reputation as a wealth management expert.

Sun Life Prosperity Funds make investing simple, convenient and affordable. Whether you are seeking long-term capital growth, preservation of capital and added-income, mixed or both, and whether you have a strong tolerance for investment volatility or not, we have a fund that's right for you.

PROSPERITY FUNDS

Find out how Sun Life Prosperity Funds can help you make your money grow. To know more about the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, please get in touch with us through telephone number 849-9888 or email: phil_prosperity@sunlife.com .

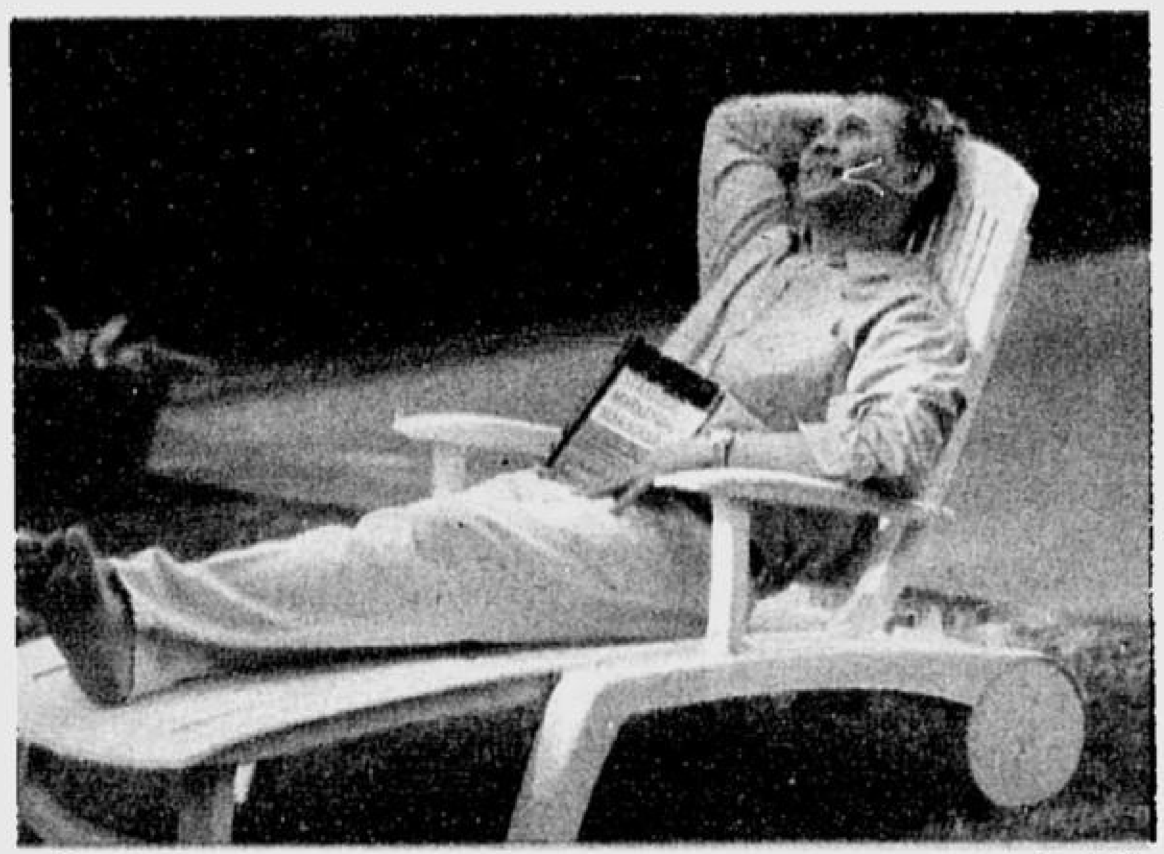
*Returns include all fund costs.

The answer to your future financial needs today

What if you could guarantee your early retirement without the usual financial concerns? What if you could start saving now for your child's university education? These questions can be readily answered by investing in a good pre-need plan.

Nowadays, one can never be too prepared. We live in an ever-changing and fast paced world where the need for pre-need is ever increasing. Pre-need plays a significant role in preparing Filipino families, individuals and communities for the future by providing them with products and services that address their needs before these needs arise, allowing them to cope with the spiraling cost of living.

A pre-need plan is a financial product that ensures payment for future monetary requirements. It serves as savings mechanisms to answer future needs of Filipino families. Currently, the most popular and in demand pre-need plans are those for education and pension. These plans provide financial security that can be enjoyed while the payor is still alive.



The priority of most parents is to ensure the best education possible for their children. But because of the high and increasing costs of a good education, many are forced to sacrifice quality because of limited resources. Education plans are available to help secure a bright future for children.

Retirement is another cause for the needless anxiety of many. Majority of Filipinos do not look forward to their retirement. Retirement is rather a moment to be dreaded because it is when the old lose their steady income and are forced to rely on their children or other relatives for support. With pension plans, however, people are given the chance to spend retirement without worries.

This is where the value of pre-need planning comes in. Filipinos are now realizing the value of preparedness and how pre-need works to secure their lives. They begin to understand the importance of saving early on for their children's education and for unexpected turn of events in the future.

Now is the time to start preparing for the kind of future you want. A good pre-need plan lets your money work for you after you have worked long and hard to earn it.

Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc. holds the distinction of being the first and only pre-need firm to offer participating education and pension plans, thus allowing planholders to share in the surplus earnings of the Company through dividends*. On top of the pension or educational fund, one can choose to receive cash dividends, accumulate these at interest and withdraw it when he pleases, or apply this as payment for his installments. SLFPI also offers a mix of short-term and long-term payments that gives you more flexibility and a variety of options for acquiring a plan that best suits your needs.

SLFPI is the fastest growing pre-need company, rising steadily from the 55th position to the 14th in a span of 6 months**. Currently it is ranked 11th in Initial Cash Brought In and 10th in Gross Contract Price after barely three years in the industry***. A highly capitalized Company practicing sound standards of business and financial practices, SLFPI is backed by over 100 years of experience of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., its mother Company.

Discover the difference, feel the security and experience the permanence that only Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc. can provide.

Call us now and let us be your guide in your journey towards financial freedom.

**The value of the dividends will vary depending on the Company's performance and will be based on the prevailing rate at the specific time you choose to avail them.*

***Based on Securities and Exchange Commission report for 2001.*

****Based on Securities and Exchange Commission report as of July 2003.*

Sun Life Plans

Bulletin

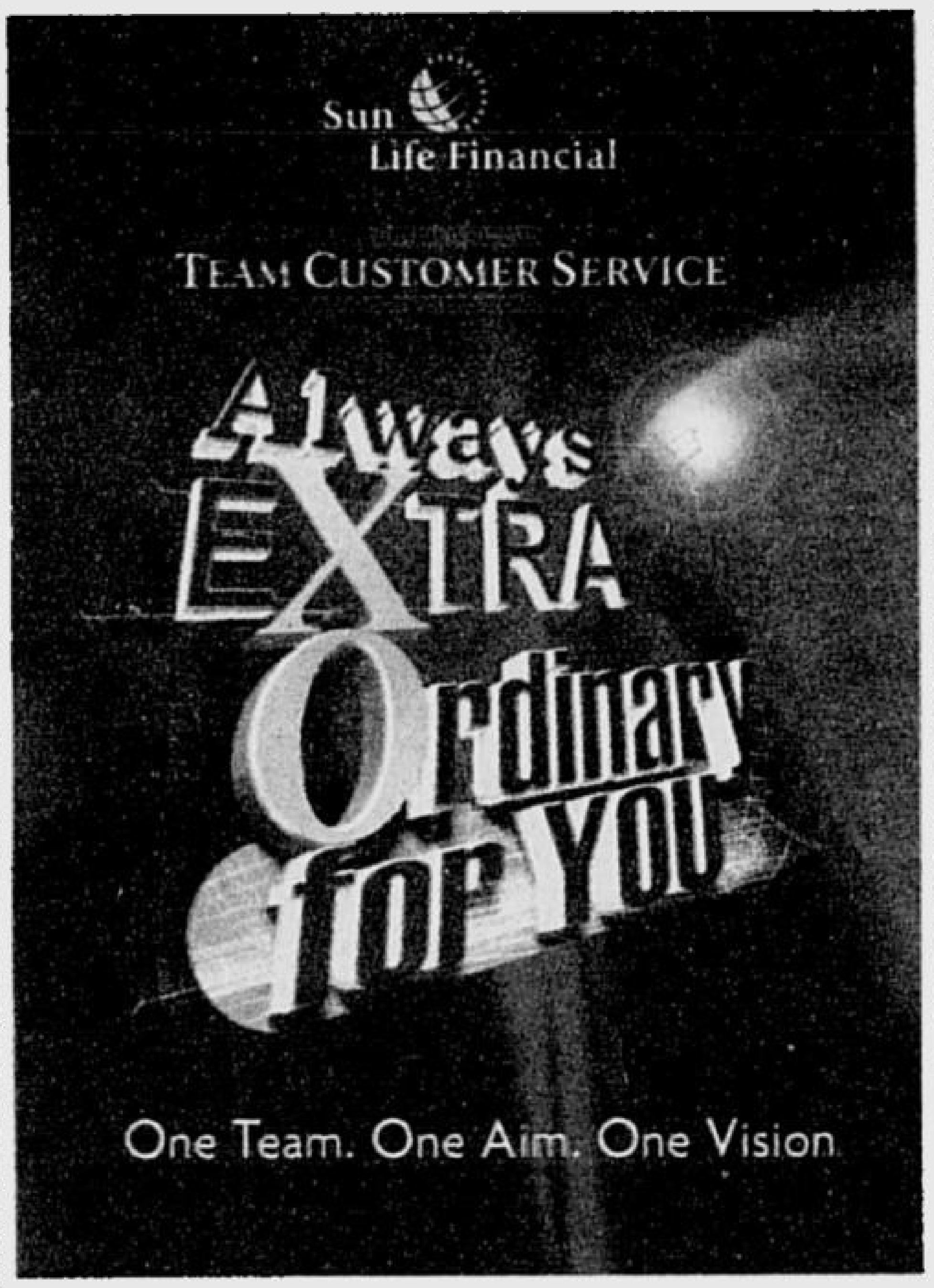
MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando at Sun Life Financial Staff Conference

A Sun Life Financial staff conference at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza recently brought together the customer service departments of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc. for the first time.

One under the newly integrated Client Services Department, they launched their new vision, **"Always ExtraOrdinary for You!"**

MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando, equally famous for his own extraordinary achievements, keynoted the event by focusing on customer service and customer satisfaction.

As a token of appreciation, President and CEO Ms. Esther C. Tan and SVP for Client Services Ms. Riza Mantaring handed over to Chairman Fernando a plaque and 100 Personal Accident Insurance Cards to be given to MMDA employees.


Sun Life Financial
TEAM CUSTOMER SERVICE
Always EXTRA Ordinary for YOU
One Team. One Aim. One Vision.

Kapihan with Mareng Winnie

Five hundred agents from Sun Life Financial's three subsidiaries attended the **Kapihan**, dubbed **"Rough Times, Yes! Tough Times, No!"**, held at the SGV conference room of AIM-ACCEED.

Sponsored by the Sun Life Education Center (SLEC), the afternoon session featured the irrepressible yet highly-respected **Professor "Mareng" Winnie Monsod**, who talked about the "Outlook of the Philippine Economy".

Mareng Winnie's talk dwelt on practical tips for the agents to survive these trying times. She said in her usual candid self that the local financial services sector has been growing for the past 2 years, posting 7% growth in 2002 and another 9% for the first quarter of 2003, which is a good sign for the agents.

Aside from a plaque of appreciation, Mareng Winnie also brought home a handful of Sun Life Financial giveaways as a token of the company's appreciation.

Save La Mesa Watershed Project:

Sun Life Financial adopts another hectare

Sun Life Financial adopted another hectare of land for the "Save La Mesa Watershed Project" implemented by the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. through its Bantay Kalikasan (Environment Watch) Program. Spearheaded by Sun Life Financial's 2003 Staff Consultative Committee, this is the third consecutive year that the company has taken part in the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed, the main source of Metro Manila's potable water.

> **Sun Life Financial adopted another hectare of land for the "Save La Mesa Watershed Project" implemented by the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. through its Bantay Kalikasan (Environment Watch) Program.**

Apart from tree adoption, Sun Life Financial staff and agents also participated in tree-planting activities in the water reservoir. Since 2001, the company has adopted nearly 7 hectares of land, equivalent to almost 3,500 trees.

Double partnership with Standard Chartered Bank

Sun Life Financial and Standard Chartered Bank began their partnership in 1998 when they launched the very first insurance co-branded credit card in the country.

After the success of the Sun Life-StanChart Mastercard and VISA credit cards, the two companies continue to nurture their partnership with 2 new exciting joint initiatives: the Sun Life Asset Management Company Fund Distribution Arrangement and the Direct Mail Campaign of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc.

The Fund Distribution Arrangement makes the Sun Life Prosperity Funds available to StanChart clients, giving them a wider array of investment choices.

Meanwhile, the Direct Marketing Campaign offers StanChart cardholders the convenience of getting insurance products through Standard Chartered Bank credit card's auto charge facility.

To celebrate the tie-ups, the company's President and CEO, Ms. Esther Tan, hosted an intimate dinner for StanChart officers.

How would you like to invest for just 5 years,
and receive cash payouts for
the rest of your life?

Guaranteed!

With SunSure Pay5, life insurance protection is just the beginning! Sit back and relax starting at the end of the 4th year, as you start receiving 6% of the amount you are insured for...and it goes on every two years thereafter ***for the rest of your life!*** What's more, you can complement SunSure Pay5 with several riders ***for greater protection and peace of mind.***

For more information on how SunSure Pay5
can provide protection and more funds for you,
call 849-9888 or e-mail us at PHIL_SunDirect@sunlife.com

Sun
Life Financial

SunSure Pay5 is an insurance product offered by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies. In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products, Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., offering education and pension plans.

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